



Miss Mary Duncanson.  
Care of J<sup>r</sup> Henry Duncanson  
Cambridge  
Mass.  
" 6 "

Institut, March 8<sup>th</sup> 1850.

My

I know not how to  
address you, for I think you are  
still displeas'd with Maria and myself.  
though you may think it strange, still I do  
not know what made you angry on that  
day - what was said then to you had been  
said several times in our own room last  
time, and you did not then seem  
displeas'd. I think I know very well  
the authors of all this mischief

It seems to have the faculty of expressing  
power over a person unawares

We were as far as I was concerned, good friends  
until you were brought in contact with another,  
my. I flattered myself, last term that you  
looked upon me, in some degree as a friend,  
although I know we were frequently at variance.  
When were a great many harsh things said that  
day, that it were better never to have said,  
but I said not a thing against either your  
friends, or his house, which I would  
not be willing for them to hear, this  
morning got very much excited, and mistook  
my many things which on one else but  
myself said, when we returned, I was much  
surprised to find you gone, if I had  
known you were going, I should have

left a note, for you, instead of writing now.  
I think there have been misunderstandings  
on both sides, if so - I hope at some future  
time they may be corrected.

An acknowledgment of this will be happily  
received

Henry Offord.

"A Feast before a Famine."  
In reference to Mrs L. my  
saying any thing to her in regard  
to your studies, was in Ans to  
one of hers, asking what I de-  
sired you to study; of course  
I had to respect her enquiry &  
thus it ends, W. & you can Ans  
in the case, It appears to me  
that all reverence for the sabbath  
will vanish from my dear  
children if they continue under  
the influence that surrounds  
them; it requires grace & a good  
degree of moral courage to resist  
the tide, Let the precepts of the  
Holy Bible be your guide, &  
then you need not err, Mrs Wise-  
=ly died last Tuesday, Mrs  
Dimberlake was not permitted  
to see her aunt either before  
or after her death, It is most

Duncannon 12<sup>th</sup>  
of Apr 1856

My very dear daughter  
Altho' I have  
written to W. & aware that you  
will hear from home through him  
I cannot refrain writing to you  
for it has been some time since  
I recd. your letter, the delay was  
due to your father's having written  
to you, which I hope poured joy  
& consolation into your wounded  
spirit. W. ought to have shown the  
letter to you & you could judge for  
your self the spirit in which it  
was written, I did not see the one  
to W. that grieved you so, your  
father says it was written in a  
jesting style, The effect of it all  
has been to draw forth expressions

of esteem & affection from  
each of you that would  
not otherwise been made, One  
effect which I see<sup>to</sup> lead you  
to seek support in all the trials to  
which we are subject, from the  
only source of comfort divine  
assistance, keep a conscience void  
of offence toward God & man,  
then no accusation can stand,  
Upon examination all will be  
just & right, In regard to writ-  
ting to Mr Agnew, if it is such  
a task & burden to you dis-  
pense with it still if you do it  
your reflections, in future will  
be more pleasant, & void of all  
regret, we should endeavor to act  
so that our reminiscences will be  
pleasant, As you left in haste  
& during his absence, it is reason-

-able that you should show  
that respect which is due in  
a letter, Your character will  
be viewed with much more res-  
pect & esteem, I really regret  
that letter writing & composition  
are such tasks to you, Beside  
to get an experienced Artist at  
your teeth, for they may do more  
harm than good, dinner is ready,  
your father has just drove up  
to the door so I will finish my letter  
in the afternoon, 4 o'clock P.M.  
When I went down to dinner  
your father had a package of  
letters 2 from yourself 1 from Mr  
& 1 from Dr J. so I had a feast of  
fat things, on Tuesday I rec<sup>d</sup> one  
from Mr. also Lilly 1 from each  
of you, we are rich in letters  
this week, I trust the old adage  
will not prove true in this  
case

outrageous! I should think  
the community would be  
very indignant at such <sup>exposed</sup> bar-  
barous unfeeling conduct.  
Your father says that M. W. Tim  
is in very good health & is so  
much improved in personal  
appearance, that she is very  
good looking, when a child  
her complexion & skin was  
beautiful, just like a piece  
of china, You speak of invi-  
-ting some of your school mates  
home in vacation, those that  
have friends here that can  
come & pass ten days or a  
fortnight will do very well  
but to have strangers come &  
pass the whole time would  
not be so agreeable, you  
would be so taken up with  
your company that I would

not have any satisfaction  
with your visit, there  
would no rest, to have part  
of the time taken up with  
visitors, but not the whole is  
all I object to, I shall feel  
quite jealous not to have a  
little attention, We are  
about to have some spring clean-  
-ing, such as white washing, paint-  
-ing, &c, Our spring is unusu-  
-ally late, vegetation has  
scarcely made its appearance  
The severity of the winter has  
killed the daily roses to the  
root, so that the flower garden  
will make such a show, by  
the time you return everything  
will be in order, if we have  
a good season, all join in  
love to both of you, Your aff  
Mother



Miss Mary Duncan  
Care of H. T. Duncan Esq  
Wilmington Kentucky



Louisville Augt 1856

Dear Mary I have not yet  
heard of your arrival in Ky-  
but from what Mrs Pope tells  
me, I suppose you & Henry are  
happily encamped at Duncan-  
& I desire so much to see you  
both, that I am induced to  
send these lines, to urge &  
ask you to make me a visit  
before your return to Massachusetts-  
Your fond parents, I know,  
will dislike to give you up even  
for a few days- yet I think  
they might indulge me in  
this, even, if but for two  
or three days- I really long to see

you - tell Henry - I shall hope  
to make a visit from him  
more agreeable, than his former  
ones, both of which, were attended  
with such unfortunate circumstances,

Mr Ford is not very well &  
under the impression, that  
home is the best place for an  
invalid, which renders it doubtful,  
when we can visit our  
friends in the "rural districts,"  
I should regret very much to  
have you return - without seeing  
you - Alice says - bestirre to  
bring Ellen - & you must, tell  
Cousin Eliza - if she cannot part  
with you, for a few days - I know  
she can accompany you, if  
she will -

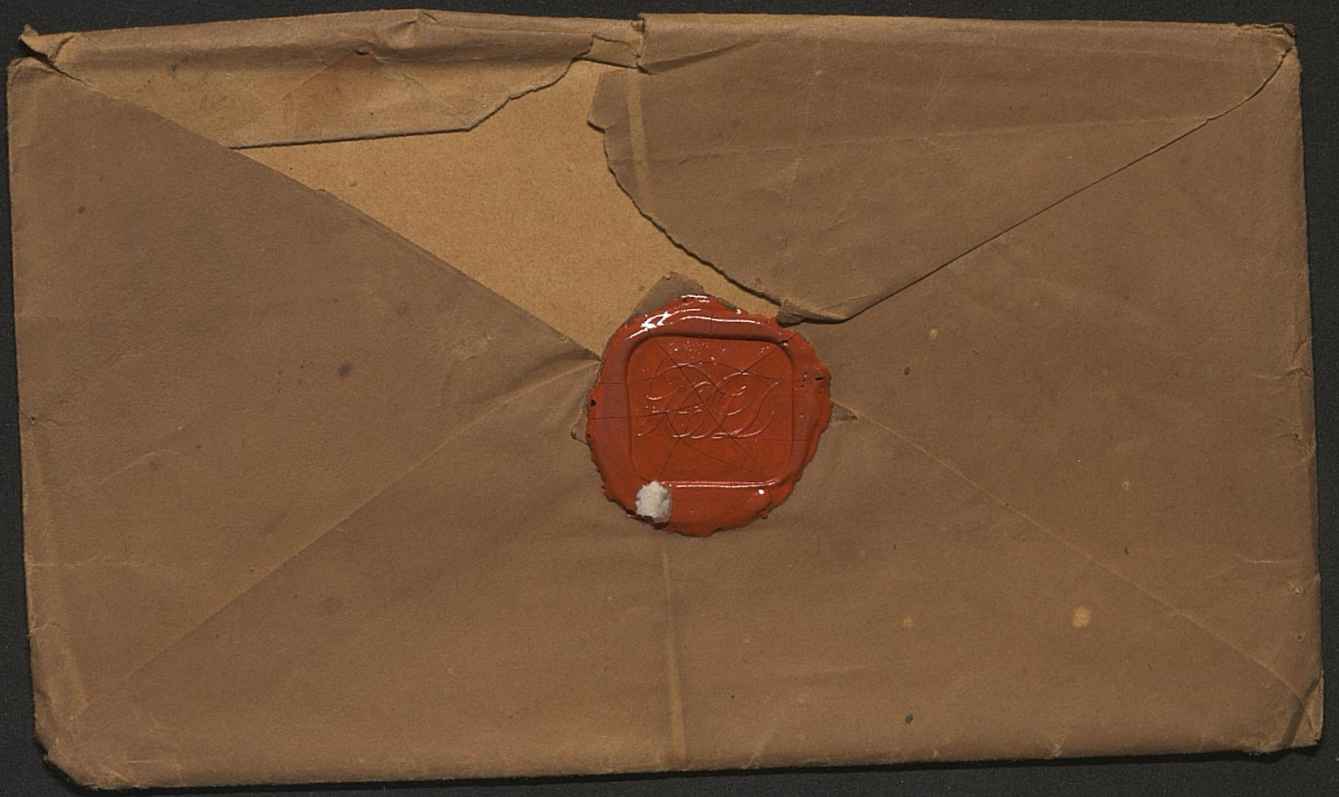
The heart a few days  
since, of the safe arrival of

Sox, Marie, they wrote  
from London - they had a  
pleasant voyage - Neither of them  
sea sick - Your Father has  
told you of course - What a  
charming daughter we have  
in Marie - I was highly grat-  
ified that he came down to  
meet them - it added so much  
to the warm welcome, we  
wished to extend to stranger  
bids - he will be very vain  
I'm sure, when I tell him  
what Marie thought of him,  
present us all most affection-  
ately from Mother & Father - to Henry  
& the little girls - & write me,  
that you will come - ever your

affec. Cousin  
M. J. Ford



Miss Mary Duncan  
Care H. T. Duncan Jr  
Cambridge  
Mass



Lexington Apr 30<sup>th</sup> 1858

My Beloved Daughter

I received from you some days ago your last letter and owing to my constant occupation & making ready & arranging my business for my Illinois trip - so as to enable me to be absent several weeks - I have deferred writing to you.

Since my last letter to you Ellen & Lily have commenced going to school to Mrs Brown wife of professor Brown of the University a Northern Lady & professional teacher before her marriage - highly competent to teach - Amiable - of gentle & lady like manners and I hope will do full justice to the children. Merriam & Anna Grate are also pupils & I suppose from what I hear that Alex Brown will send 2 of his daughters (their mother being dead a few days ago)

You would be surprised to see with what spirit the children have embarked into their studies - Ellen is in a class with Merriam & Lily with Anna - and there is quite an emulation - which I hope will produce good fruits.

There is no local news whatever to

every thing goes on quietly & smoothly

Altho my dear Daughter you have written us several interesting letters - yet they are not as full as we could desire - Tell us all the little particulars, who the young ladies are at School? where are they from? How do they improve upon further acquaintance? Have you made the acquaintance of any girls not of the School? If so, who are they? And these thousand little minute particulars so interesting to parents - In your last to Mother you speak of going to a party (of course with Brother) to Mrs Overough - who are the guests? These are little particulars we like to hear - They are doubtless among your chosen people - How you were pleased at the party what new acquaintances did you make there either Ladies or gentlemen - have they chosen or did they improve you favorably of Cambridge Society - These occasional parties, are favorable (when well conducted) to the improvement of your manners - give ease & affability of address - but improving to the manners - But should not be carried so far as to interfere with your studies - These must never be lost sight of, as the main & important object of your going to Cambridge - Enjoying as you do my dear Child such rare opportunities

for the cultivation & improvement of your mind I hope you will make every thing subordinate to this cardinal & all important object of your present residence - Be ambitious of distinction in your school - not only for your superior attainment - But for superiority of your high character - for all that is lovely in disposition graceful in manner - courteous & polite in general intercourse - with thorough & profound attainments & scholarly accomplishments, never forgetting that with such rare opportunities as you enjoy - the public expectation upon your return home - will be high - This expectation must be fully realized - You have the personal & intellectual qualities fully to meet it - If you but devote your time, as you should to your improvement

The time is nearly expired for the Chelmsford to go in & as I am their driver I must hasten to a close

I wrote your Brother on the 20<sup>th</sup> last and enclosed him a check for 250<sup>l</sup>, which I have had no acknowledgment of as yet - but which I hope comes safely to hand

All join in much love to your Brother & yourself

Your devoted Father  
H. L. Jones

Hermitage N.H.  
July 27



Miss Mary Duncan  
Pittsfield

Care of } Mass.  
Gen. Edgum }

Hermitage Hill Ga. 21  
February 25 1862

Dear Mary

I learned a day or two since  
through a letter from Judge Thomas that  
he had forwarded to me a letter from Miss  
It had not reached me and probably will not  
as it would have been sent more than a month  
ago. Taking it for granted that I sent it without  
ship to you I avail myself of this apology to write  
to you again. If I am mistaken pardon my annoy-  
ing you with this the 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>d</sup> in the paper that I have  
sent you but received no acknowledgment. I should  
not certainly depend any further upon your patience.  
I am sure you are sure that I cannot be doing you  
other than to receive letters from any one to whom  
you do not intend to reply. I had rather not receive  
letters to reply to which is irksome and my feelings  
I think cannot be any far so various from those  
to other that you will understand no further part that  
you will be troubled again unless you desire. I  
and I am perfectly of my own mind and desire that  
you do

I write to you a few days after my arrival to this  
land of shales and pine in the land and you see then  
the impressions made by it upon my mind. Since  
then in account of the storm & turbulent cold weather  
I have been unable to attend my acquaintance on the  
any further. Most of the time I have been busy

P.S. I began the letter on the wrong paper in  
reading it you will have to excuse the numbering



I am told that you console yourself for the small  
 pleasure denied you by saying that he will suffer  
 for it on his return in the way of being sick of  
 the small have suffered on his trip out from the  
 inland side. Are you required to sleep & get up  
 in a parlour room as you were last winter? If you  
 are & do not nearly freeze you must possess the self-  
 denial ability to resist cold. In conclusion permit me  
 to express the hope that you are making rapid  
 progress in your studies and that your opportunity  
 shall justify the price bestowed upon you by the  
 young ladies of Ohio in the extent of preparation of  
 receiving a reply to this extent. I subscribe myself  
 (as it is in the last term) your affectionate cousin  
 W. G. Jenkins

confined to the house, getting out occasionally only to  
 see what progress my railroads are making; to visit  
 the post office; and now send them to hunt rabbits for  
 an hour or two. The remaining hours are spent in  
 sleep & dreams of home & friends, & spent in reading,  
 writing letters and cattle building. My reading  
 matter is rather limited in quantity and not very  
 interesting in kind; & my correspondents are not  
 as prompt to write as I am to reply, and as I  
 am not much given to indulge in night specula-  
 tions upon the future you may know I have  
 rather a dull time of it. But still I am not unpleas-  
 ed and feel no regret that I have come to Illinois  
 to pursue my studies. It had in view of the coldest days  
 of the coldest winter within the memory of the oldest  
 inhabitant, you must experience if my letter is short  
 and more stupid than it is short. I think myself  
 to flow without violent warning and my letter can-  
 not be made more concise to flow it better than  
 your letter gave me a glowing account of the thank-  
 giving festival at the institution. It is satisfactory in  
 its enumeration of several of the young ladies he met  
 there one in particular whom he described as possessing  
 a gem-like form & a smile in light & dark hair and eyes  
 as he expatiated the light with pleasure. Was it she? Every  
 eye in this assembly eye which is most advanced. The girl  
 with black hair and eyes as the girl with the sun-  
 "black" hair & eyes I suppose is enjoying herself now at home



Miss Mary Duncan  
Care of H. T. Duncan  
Cambridge  
Mass

war of 1812 - We have found the wife  
and daughter - exceedingly clever and  
agreeable visitors, and regretted to part  
with them so soon - they are your  
niece Sakes but not relatives - though  
Ell & Lily & the young lady Miss Lucia  
consided each other

Ell & Lily are pursuing their studies  
at home under Mother's direction  
I hear their lessons every evening - and  
give a medal of 5 cent pieces - for every  
perfect lesson Lily has got one each  
day in spelling - and you have no  
idea how it has quickened them  
Lily is the best speller - we will see how  
it continues to work

We have nothing new - the elec-  
tion promises to be a very heated and  
excited one - Fillmore will carry  
the State I think - this you can tell  
my young friend Chs Jacob - who takes  
such interest in Fillmore

With my best respects to Miss  
Lucy & her brother Chs  
With love to your brother  
Your devoted Father  
H J Sullivan

Livington Oct 11<sup>th</sup> 1856

My Beloved Daughter

Your letter to your Mother the  
first since I left you was duly received  
a day or two since, I am sure that you were  
aware of the pleasure your letters give, we  
should have them long, and more frequent  
I am much gratified to learn that you  
are at length fixed - and have a snug com-  
fortable room - and that you and Miss Lucy  
are getting along very happily together, but  
she has become very lame - and I hope  
will get entirely get rid of this feeling &  
remain contentedly until she finishes  
her education

I hope my dear daughter that you  
will most diligently pursue your studies  
and take a high rank for scholarships  
that you will become a proficient in  
the modern languages - that you will  
learn to speak French & German flu-  
ently - indeed with the opportunities you enjoy  
so much superior to the young ladies generally  
of your State - if you are not found to be a profi-  
cient upon your return - you will find to your  
marked that positions always awarded to merit  
Sullivan

Superiority - permit not present pleasures ease  
and enjoyment - to interfere with your most  
diligent application to your studies - In your  
intercourse with the young Ladies - always  
remember that you are a Lady - Bear your  
self with dignity & Courtesy - Never lower  
yourself with too much familiarity - never  
lose your self respect - remember the old  
adage, "that too much familiarity breeds  
contempt," In your constant daily intercourse  
always keep in mind the properties of good  
breeding - and quality of manner - Be  
polite to all - without familiarity - to but few  
keep your own counsels, confide to none  
but your own family

Your mention in your letter that you have  
had no account of the wedding - you shall have  
it - at the appointed time - with all the honours  
any I could give, we did not get over in time  
they were in the midst of the ceremony upon  
our arrival - the affair coming off at  
the hour exactly - The General - looking  
exceedingly well and as self possessed as a  
veteran of many Campaigns - Miss Watson, stood  
fine I think - looking as well as better than  
I ever saw her - Miss Miss Humphrey - then  
Miss Carry McCraw & last Miss Agnew - all  
looking their best - The Groomsman were

with Scott - Dr Smith - St Louis - Louis Costeman  
& Miss Breckinridge - The company was  
not large - principally the kin - and a  
few neighbours - both her Pittsfield school  
mates except the fat girl from Scott, what  
is her name I forget - The Supper was  
handsome and abundant - all went off  
well and all seemed to enjoy themselves  
much - A young Lady - a Miss, I believe from  
Illinois & her mother, who have been  
staying with us for some 2 weeks - return  
ed home that night very sick - was con-  
fined for some days - that is now on a visit  
to the neighbourhood of Paris - at the Jerry  
Blucars - a Cousin of theirs - The husband  
of the Lady an old friend of mine - and  
also a native of Paris though his connections  
emigrated to Illinois at an early period  
and soon rose to position & distinction  
He was a man of great energy - good sense  
and true merit - he rose rapidly & filled  
successively various offices - State Senator  
Member of Congress & finally Governor of  
the State - He distinguished himself in the  
military service of the Country - Congress  
presented him with a sword - for his gallan-  
try & distinguished services - in the defence  
of Fort Stevens - under Col Croghan in



CAPE PLAINS  
13 JULY  
1869



Miss Mary Surman  
Lexington.  
Kentucky.

groom'sman as you are one of  
the bridesmaids. Be sure and  
plague her well. I am sure  
I pity her having you for  
a bridesmaid. Has your brother  
recovered from the shock  
I gave him, on account  
of my shaking hands with  
him? Dear fellow! Positively,  
his indignation and mighty  
revengeance on almost  
as much as the warmth  
of the shake. I don't  
know what I should have  
done if Father hadn't been  
there. I should probably  
have had either the "chills"  
or the "flux and ague" from  
the excessive warmth of his

Dear Claire.  
July 14. 1856.

My dear Mary  
Here am I  
seated by my window gazing  
out upon your lightning &  
a splendid thunder storm.  
I sat down here a few  
minutes ago, and got so  
cool and suspicious, that I  
determined to -- write a letter  
to you, and shine. A noble and  
glorious resolve! Hadn't it?  
Worthy of the Thunder storm!  
The lightning is flashing in  
my eyes so vividly, that I can  
hardly see. How how it does  
purr! The rain comes right  
straight down in perfect columns



to Aunt Lucia the other day.  
Just think of it!

Don't you pity her?

I have written a letter to  
Ellen Nichols, one to Praline, Care of Mrs Edward Sumpless.  
and one to Madame Agassiz  
since I have been here.

And now that I have  
written this letter to you  
I have got only two more  
letters to write just at  
present, one to Miss Madway,  
and one to Madam Agassiz.

Did you see Lizzie King at the  
Walden Mt.?

I don't want to frighten  
my suspense with  
my first letter for fear  
you won't write me one.  
With much love, from  
your affectionate friend  
Lucia Denny.

XXX Kisses.



Miss Lucia M. Denny.  
Care of Mrs. Sumpless.

This is my direction, so you  
cannot excuse yourself from  
writing, by saying that you don't  
know how to direct your letters.  
Lucia.



hand, as she sunk through  
the floor into the cellar,  
before the majesty of his  
countenance (and astonish-  
ment of his look).

If I should go to see  
"ma chère sœur" when I  
am in Boston on Commence-  
ment Day perhaps I might  
have the pleasure of seeing  
the D. (the gentleman who  
to fall in love with, &c. &c.)  
and of hearing his voice,  
as I heard that Lucia visited  
him last Class Day.

I am writing this letter  
so it can reach you when  
you get home, as I promised  
to do. and I think I am  
a "great deal more wise" to be  
writing to you now, when I  
ought to be getting ready  
to go to Boston.

I wrote a letter of 14 pages



Miss Mary Duncan  
Cambridge  
Mass

for him to have taken No 28  
trunk & left the one with  
your cloths, was every thing  
right? no one robbed you?  
I was fearful that something  
might have been lost out of  
yours as your father says  
the lock was broken & it  
was held together by the  
straps, You must have a  
good lock put on, Two  
weeks ago, or fortnight your  
"General" launched her bark  
on the sea of Matrimony,  
She & the Dr both regretted  
very much that you were  
not present, the Dr said  
he felt that he was acquainted  
with you he had heard so  
much about you when I bid  
On good bye she sent a great  
deal of love to you & also

Duncannon  
Oct 15<sup>th</sup> 1855

My dear daughter  
Your acceptable  
letter was rec<sup>d</sup> on Tuesday, I am  
so sorry to hear that Hal is so  
distressed with his teeth, & can  
truly sympathize with him  
as I have been suffering with  
a rising in my right ear for  
several weeks, on last Sunday  
I came home from church &  
went to bed, it is better now &  
I am at my usual avocations  
What does his Dr say? he should  
be accountable for all this suffer-  
ing. Try to get him use the  
olive oil & turpentine, half  
the quantity of the Spirits of tur-  
pentine i.e say one spoonful

of olive oil to half of the spirits  
of tur- sub the jaw gently with  
the mixture & tie up in flannel  
Upon the slightest uneasiness use  
it & it will prevent much pain  
I wish very much I had prepared  
the articles for you before you  
left, It is really pleasant to think  
you have secured an agreeable  
boarding house & a comfortable  
room, I know how unpleasant &  
confused ~~one~~ feels to have some  
things one place & some another  
You must have yourself a quilt  
for the winter it is warmer &  
lighter than the moscer, if an  
opportunity had occurred I  
could have sent you one,  
Do not give yourself the slight-  
est uneasiness for not getting the  
trimming for my Casque, it  
can be fixed here, make you

own wardrobe comfortable &  
to suit you & I shall do very  
well, I am really glad that  
Lucy is becoming more contented  
as she has gone on it would  
be a pity for her not to avail  
herself of such an excellent  
opportunity for improvement  
It is to be regretted that she does  
not love study, to have a room  
mate of that class is apt to be  
a clog to one that is desirous  
to study, by interruption in  
conversation, & doing things cal-  
culated to draw attention,  
Still I hope you will get on  
harmoniously, I regret your  
trip was so crossed by one  
thing & another, Your father  
unpacked the trunk for you  
& left one of your shirts it  
would have been just as

are going to Philadelphia -  
Mary Harrison sends love to you  
she says you must not stay so  
long at school, you will be  
too smart, It is said Mattie  
will be married soon she  
keeps very closely at home  
I suppose Horace & Lucia can  
& have told you more of Lex  
than I can, Give my love  
to Lucy I hope she will still  
be more satisfied as her  
brother Thomas is on to see  
her, Kind regards to Mr  
& Mrs Sparks, hope to hear that  
they are restored to health,  
Take good care of yourself &  
your dear brother, it is so pleasing  
that you are together if either should  
be sick, E. & L join in much  
love to each of you my dear  
children, Your ever affectionate  
Mother  
Mary sends much love to Miss  
Mary & says she doesn't think

she will survive the winter

the Dr, i.e. Dr Webb.

He is not handsome but is  
very genteel in his appear-  
ance & manners, intelligent  
in his conversation, The family  
all seemed very well pleased,  
Mrs Tandy came with the Dr  
& all returned to St Louis  
together, They board with  
Dr Tandy this winter,  
Mrs Castleman & Mrs Buckenidge  
pepped a day with us last  
week, they each desired to  
be affectionately remembered  
to you, Sallie Moore & brother  
Evy Bright, Mary Moore were  
at the wedding & all sent a  
great deal of love to you,  
Miss Waters was here last week  
she was going to Mr Bright's to  
stay some time & promised to

come & spend some with me  
before her return to N. Y. she  
sent her love to you & says that  
you owe her a letter, Have  
you written to Dr Jenkins yet?  
You should not treat him so,  
Your father speaks of going to Ill  
next month, We have had a  
very intelligent lady & her  
daughter from Ill on a visit  
they went to Paris on Tuesday  
to make a visit, the birth  
place of her husband,  
Joseph Duncan, at one time  
Gov of Ill, he died about 12 yrs  
ago, Do you remember to have  
seen a Miss Duncan at Saratoga  
the summer we were there? she  
is a daughter of his, she married  
a Mr Putnam of Saratoga & is  
living in Des Moines Iowa,

Mr Jeremiah Duncan of  
Louisbon is a cousin of  
Gov Duncan, he came up  
on Monday for them, So when  
we visit Jacksonville we will  
have a very agreeable acquaintance  
Julia D is a lovely girl & very  
intelligent, Your father promised  
her that he would take the  
Dr over to see her, Miss Coary  
says she has the strongest claim  
on the Dr for she knew him best  
The more I see Miss M. E. C. the  
more I like her, she is so intelli-  
gent & lady like,  
Mrs Mr Brand & her daughters  
came to see Mrs D. They all  
desired to be remembered to  
you, Emma McLaw is going  
to Baltimore to school, &  
Lily, Anna & Annie Brand



Miss Mary Anne  
Care of Mr. H. J. Dunham  
Cambridge  
Massachusetts





Dear Mother

your time, not to crowd or worry  
 you - Only as many as you can  
 do full justice to, and thoroughly  
 understand - You have time  
 enough - Now is the time for  
 you to thoroughly train & discipline  
 your mind, and make yourself  
 even in Cambridge an ac-  
 complished Scholar - Never  
 I entreat you be content with a  
 position of inferiority in your school  
 write me all the particulars of  
 your school, your estimate of the  
 different professions of the  
 young Ladies - Who they are? where  
 from generally? How they improve  
 you? - You must sustain fully  
 the character of your state, you  
 are the only representation of  
 it - which never forget - write often  
 fully freely of every thing - All send  
 your much love  
 your devoted Father  
 H. J. Burdett

Sealing wax

Lexington March 28<sup>th</sup> 1858

My Beloved Daughter  
 I cannot resist the temptation to  
 write you before the close of this  
 announcing, the receipt by <sup>day</sup> the stage  
 mail, of your - long looked for &  
 anxiously expected & long deferred  
 letters of the 22<sup>nd</sup> inst - It has safely  
 arrived - where we had almost despaired  
 of ever receiving another, of  
 those delightful epistles - which it  
 was your habit (while at Pittsfield)  
 to dispatch us at least once a week  
 and not generally oftener - Now  
 my dear Child you have broken  
 the ice & I hope once more <sup>you have</sup> got  
 under way & that we shall never  
 again be doomed to such suspense  
 and anxiety and disappointment  
 But that we shall regularly  
 be

in the receipt of your letters at  
least once a week & oftener, written  
full & carefully - with all that nice  
minute detail of every thing that  
concerns you - I wish it had  
come to a little sooner, to what  
I have said me the pain of writ-  
ting to your Brother the other  
day a letter of Complaint against  
your neglect - couched in terms  
if he showed it to you, calculated  
to give you pain - I hope the  
letter did not come to hand, as  
it is painful to me, to be under  
the necessity of reproaching one  
I so dearly love - As I trust  
there will never arise another  
occasion - for well founded com-  
plaint - as there has been in your  
long silence - It has now all  
passed forgiven & forgotten

The account you give me of your  
School is very satisfactory, I have no  
doubt, it is very superior to the one  
you have left, Your teachers are  
far superior - If you only improve  
the opportunity - you will never  
regret the change - I hope your  
knowledge of French is such, that  
you are able to understand and  
fully comprehend, the meaning  
of all that is said in those lectures  
delivered in French - do you? you  
must practice speaking the language  
as much as possible - you must  
learn to speak it fluently - and  
after awhile learn the German  
I think you can by application  
acquire the languages with  
facility - What opportunity have  
you of practising your music?  
Take studies enough to occupy

Miss Mary Shreve  
Lexington  
Kentucky



Mrs. Mary Swann  
Swann

Dear Mary,

Just as I was  
leaving Lexington last week  
Friday, Dr. Browning handed  
me your note. I had only  
time to read it and hand  
to him your pocket-piece, ask-  
ing him to give it to Henry  
the first time he saw him,  
which he promised to do. I  
hope you have received it  
safely etc. This I had noticed  
your mistake, but had not had  
an opportunity of rectifying it -  
and I was in such a hurry on  
Friday Eve. that I did not re-  
member, that besides the

poCKET piece, 10. cts. of the 25.  
belonged to you, - I am sorry  
I was so thoughtless, I hope  
you will excuse it.

Give my love to your dear  
Mother, brother and sisters -  
kiss darling little Lilly for  
me, and tell her she must  
not forget "Barty", though it  
may be a long time, before  
she may see her again.

Have you heard  
from your Father very lately?  
When does he expect to re-  
turn home?

In haste affectionately  
your friend

A. L. Bantlett.

Bourbon Co, So. E. Co. May. 17. 57.



PAID  
JUL 18 1851  
NEW YORK

Miss Mary Dunsan  
Care of Mr H. Dunsan  
Cambridge  
Mass.



Keplerson June 21st 1836

My Dear Mr. Gary

I am writing you the end of the school  
by writing on this day. I presume the Professor  
wrote by I had the conditional will. It may  
be I have not but I am quite sure I like  
much pleasure in writing and especially to  
my dear best boy.

I did not get your letter last week and came  
to the conclusion that you had forgotten to  
write but at some at last.

I am to say you are going home to soon I  
with me walk all so together but you will  
have a charming time. You will probably visit  
Gary Reed. Will you not?

I expect now to return with Mr. Lee father  
at evening for her. but I do not know whether  
he will return immediately or not. but I  
presume he will at 8 o'clock at least. how  
long will you be at home?

Henry Galthman will up. I suppose the last  
of this month or first of the next if you do  
not stay long home you will not see her.  
I am so desirous to see her are you not?



the last on the afternoon. The last night Fisher  
has left town.

Do you know where Miss P. is? we heard she  
is at some teacher's school is coming  
here on the 11th. hi, hi! is that right?

Here it says again she said give Mary <sup>love</sup> &  
love, and tell her to write to me.

But David Gordon Mr. Kilde had been here for  
the last week - the Spence took a great deal of  
notice of him - one day Mrs. and Mr. Spence

and Mr. Taylor. But then the Misses Spence and  
Mr. Kilde went to Lebanon, were packed most

he was very sad. Miss Spence came back  
and she said that Spence and Mr. Kilde would

go in the evening. They had a gay time, he  
went away to day.

We had a Medical Society last Monday night  
and it was announced that we were going to  
Dr. Hall's next but I don't know it.

We were very glad you ask me about Spence, all  
I can say is that he is a good one for next that

I am ashamed that I know her. I am not  
going home with her and think it very doubtful

if I visit her at all, and you tell this  
I have just purchased a riding seat.

I am glad to say Mary and will give you a  
letter later than usual.

Write my son and tell me all your plans.  
With much love I am  
Yours  
D. S.

D. S. I will send you a catalogue when they  
come. Bye bye.  
Yours  
D. S.

Miss Mary Spence



Henry L. Duncan  
 (for Miss Duncan)



Lexington  
 Kentucky

Careless to Mary Wood and Decy.  
If you have not written very soon  
to your affectionate  
Seph.

It appears that in fact I will not  
have any more.

My Dear Mary



New York Feb 11. 1836

My Dear Mary

I had company Saturday  
the day we appointed to write to each other.  
but I rather guess you are quiet at home  
as I am, for I have not as yet received the  
promise from you. but I suppose you  
having so much to do that you can scarcely  
find time to anything. How I would like to  
be in the Republic to day. <sup>to</sup> you all and have  
a nice party. but I wish you would laugh  
well at my fine appearance could you but  
have one glimpse of my forehead up head. I had  
the good fortune to see against the door in  
order to have a black and swollen eye. I took  
old. in it. and you cannot imagine how thin.  
Owing I look.

Now I have the sweetest little baby cousin you  
must ever saw. he has black hair, bright eyes,  
round face, dimpled cheeks and skin. O. How

at almost to death. I spend good part of my  
time in the Nursery holding him, and I am now  
working him a very pretty Kanak.

The Misses Dove called here last week and in-  
vited me to meet all of our cousins that are  
here at their house. but I am sorry to say I  
cannot go. My father left for Danbury to day,  
and he cannot go with me.

Henry H. Osburn and Miss Galloway, Miss and  
Mrs. Gilman have been to see me.

I called to see Hattie Snow yesterday. she is  
very well.

I expected to go to Litch to day but I received  
two letters from the Uncle I came here to meet  
saying he would not be here until one week  
from today. I expected him last week. I fear  
now I cannot visit Litch. I had a charming  
letter from her last week. She did not reach  
home until Saturday morning.

I have not been out much since I came, and  
now I cannot go out at all.

It is wonder what you are doing way up in

that little place, but I wish you sleep some  
one but don't you? I think you and Annie  
must have charming times in your room.  
Come and dine with me this evening. would  
you?

How is Mrs. Storer? give my love to her. tell  
her if I return my heart is fixed on the  
room best to her. I will let her know for  
certain in two weeks whether I return or not.  
It will depend how long my uncle remains  
here. he expects me to return with him. but  
I prefer to wait until next fall and go with  
Annie and Eliza.

I have just sent Litch a long letter.

I have done no sewing at all. we had to much  
company.

My cousin has a French teacher and I always  
go in to the recitations. which takes up some  
little time. especially when we never leave the  
breakfast table before ten.

Hoping, Mary, that you will conclude to remain  
at Maplewood next term. I must close.



Miss Mary D. [unclear]  
Care of H. D. [unclear] Esq.  
Lewington,  
N.Y.

Waplewood July 22<sup>nd</sup> 1856

My Dear Henry

Your very welcome letter  
the day before yesterday, and I have  
but little time but that little I take  
pleasure in answering to you.

I am so delighted to think you will  
be at home and I can visit you won't  
we realize some of the riches of time?  
hai hai I reckon we will. Miss Lotie  
afflicted Mary Castleman every day  
as she had not heard from her. I hope  
Mary will be at home while we are  
don't you? only about the 24<sup>th</sup> we leave  
for Wey. joyful day - the afflicted are  
not going directly home - to Evelyn and  
her brother, my brother and myself

will have a merry time. If you were  
only with us. But I hope it will not  
be long before we may meet.

I presume we will in by the 20th if  
we go directly through as we expect to  
do.

I will give you the most as briefly as  
possible as I have but few moments  
before they hear. We have changed  
the hour to nine in the morning.  
Julia Bacon had the late victory -  
the members of the Galaxy met last night  
the new ones were Miss Seaman, Miss  
O'Shea, Miss Warren, Miss Warren only  
the juniors - for we could not get in  
because I was not a junior. Miss  
Mary C. was quite disappointed, being  
in a junior class.  
Miss Allen is the best scholar in school.  
She does not much love to go to school.  
How you both like for me, my kind  
remembrance to your parents and brother.

I send you a catalogue.

Good bye my much loved Mary  
until we meet.

Very  
Respectfully



Miss Mary Duncan,  
Care of Henry Duncan,  
Cambridge,  
Mass.





Shaplewood May 11th 1786

My Dear Mary

You cannot imagine how  
your silence has pained me. I think if  
you knew how I felt you would have  
written to me at least once. Can it be  
that you are provoked with Mr. Mearns  
I have heard some things that were surpris-  
ing to have come from <sup>you</sup> lately and if you  
heard them while working with the  
Chief Officers, you are of course offended  
with me and have reason to be if you  
believe them. But Mary believe me and  
I will say it with my hands upon my  
precious Bible you never had a kinder  
friend in this world than I am. When you  
know me better if ever you do, you will

now that I never make so much show of love  
but it lies safely within the heart.  
You know I suppose that Lillie has gone  
home. She went home two weeks ago with  
Mr. Mill. her mother has been quite sick.  
We had quite an affecting time when she  
left. Lida, Eva, Emma, Fattel and Henry W.  
and their child all went down to see her. Mary  
and Miss her very much.  
Eva is going to room with us. at least we  
are very anxious to have her. We want the  
two rooms on the first floor in the west B.  
That James will be home this week and then  
we shall know. If you were only here too  
we would have a perfect time. I never go in  
our old room but I begin to talk about  
you and Mary. I have had three letters  
from Mary this time. I expect her minister  
will say. She always inquires about you.  
but has never been able to give her any  
information concerning you. She thinks of  
coming to New York this month.

Mr. Offutt is here now. will stay here a few  
days. He has business Lida, Eva, and myself  
to do with them tomorrow. but I don't think  
I will go.

How Mary dear, am I to consider my self a  
discarded friend? What would I not give to  
have you the friend you once were, will it  
never be so? tell me Mary what I have  
done, and who knows what may not be  
revealed.

Lida is at church. Eva is with me and we  
have been talking about you. which has  
caused me to send you my note on writing  
on Monday.

I shall wait very anxiously to hear from you  
Remember me to your brother.

Charly W. Friend  
Augusta.

P.S. Mary reads Leonard's next week.  
Lida

Miss Mary Sumner  
Care Henry J. Sumner  
North vac. building  
Cambridge  
Mass.



written, and would you be  
as charitable to me? My  
visit to St. Louis was much brief-  
er than I expected at the time  
I left home, and I can scarcely  
say why I didn't write to you  
while there, and since my re-  
turn to Lexington, I have nearly  
not had time until today I  
was never in my whole life,  
so perfectly wee-wee down with  
company, and this is the first day  
that we have been alone for  
seven weeks, I have had some  
al Counsel from Leesville, besides  
other families with me for some  
weeks, and as most of them  
were comparative strangers, I had  
scarcely ten minutes to appropria-  
te as I felt inclined. Would you  
believe that I had written to  
Sister Virginia but twice? Sister  
Anna and the two little children

have been with <sup>us</sup> for a month,  
and will, I presume, remain  
during the entire summer. Her  
health has been very watched for  
some time, tho' she has improved  
wonderfully, since she came home.  
I saw your father the morning  
after I arrived at Lexington, and  
with that exception, I have not  
said my eyes upon one of your  
family. I am extremely anxious  
to see them, and should have  
been here before this, but have  
been ever before this, but have  
been prevented by the same cause,  
that detained me from writing to  
you - Company.

How do you like Cambridge?  
Write very soon and tell all  
about every thing. How pleasant  
it must for you and your  
Brother to be so near each  
other. Do you expect to return  
home this summer? I hope very



Miss Mary Lincoln  
Care of H. J. Lincoln  
Cambridge  
Mass

all of which were most acceptable  
Now my dear child as to the  
conduct of the Agents I think he has  
has played the Aps completely & has  
sort of respect or toleration for him  
And for I never meet him I shall give  
him a plain talk - And I do hope  
that you have not so far yielded  
to your amiable impulses as to write  
him - If he were capable of a pro-  
per appreciation of the act on your  
part - It might not - But you only  
exposed yourself further - to his unkind  
and ungentlemanly conduct - My advice  
is now no more to do with the concern

I do hope my dear Daughter that  
you will not neglect your Books  
Study laboriously & diligently - Be not  
satisfied with a mediocre position in  
your class - But win distinction from  
scholarship among the learned of your  
college - your opportunities are numerous  
- & a failure is your own fault  
With my love to your brother - I remain  
Your devoted Father  
H. D. Moore

Lebanon Ill<sup>e</sup> May 27<sup>th</sup> 1858

My Beloved Daughter

Nothing could have afforded  
me more gratification than the receipt one  
day before yesterday of your most welcome  
and affectionate letter at the "Hermitage",  
to which place it was directed by your  
Brother - where I arrived some 15 days ago  
and have spent that time - in looking after  
my lands - all of which I offer for sale  
except those in Cook County - where "Her-  
mitage" is situated - And there besides, I  
found him as busy as a railor - running  
six Prairie Plows & planting corn - These  
plows are very large, each drawn by 6  
yoke of Oxen (that is ten) and each <sup>(plowing)</sup> putting  
in 2 acres a day - He has been industrious  
having enclosed 500 acres - with a good  
fence - seems delighted with the life and  
his location - To give you some idea of  
what Illinois can do - for a young So. - I  
will give you an account - of his trip  
in the Southern part of the State for  
the



purpose of purchasing his Oxen for plow-  
ing - he took the rail road (accompanied  
by a man that he hired for the jour-  
ney) with his saddle & bridle, expecting to  
hire a horse or purchase one and  
traveled 120 miles - purchased his Oxen but  
was unable to procure a horse - so they  
were driven to the necessity of driving  
their Oxen on foot - the 120 miles - fortunately  
one of the Oxen had been broken to ride  
so the Dr Saddle was girthed on & the Dr &  
his man took time about as as they  
say had rode in the, one walked while  
the other rode & then changed - thus the  
trip was made - arriving home safely - he  
has commenced putting in his corn and  
will put in a large wheat crop

I have never visited Illinois so  
late in the spring before - of course  
I never before saw it in all its  
gorgeous beauty & magnificence - I  
regard an immense flower garden  
bounded by the horizon, as far distant  
timber - all its freshness of new and

and magnificent bloom - to see such  
variety and such splendor - I will stop  
<sup>can</sup> ~~surely~~ give you no idea of the grand  
spectacle

I selected the site for the house  
a beautiful slope with level & clumps  
upon rising ground about 500 yds from  
the river bank (the Quaker) on Sangamon  
& I am now here, on my way to Chicago  
to contract for the building of a neat  
Cottage - which we expect to have brought  
down by rail road put up in 2 weeks, such  
is the go ahead of this young giant state

I expect to spend 2 or 3 days at Chicago  
& go from there home - I shall reach there  
to morrow at noon - I shall write from  
there to your Brother - from whom I  
had the gratification of receiving a letter  
some 3 hours ago, at the Station before I  
left - the Dr going to the Post Office  
in the neighbourhood in hopes to find  
something ~~from~~ me - He brought your  
Brother's letter & 3 news papers for me  
enclosed by our Mr Pope at Louisville



Miss Mary Duncanson  
Care Mr. Henry Duncanson,  
Cambridge,  
Mass.



Highwood Jan 22 1866

My Dear Mary

your letter came just as we  
 were in the middle of getting ready to pay our  
 welcome visit to Dr. Wood. This and I were  
 dressed just alike. Same Skirts, white Satinet  
 trimmed with blue, a new style for in fac-  
 tured. We have a very pleasant evening.  
 My journal shall contain many of the things  
 which I think will interest you most.  
 On Saturday last the evening class, which is  
 quite large and pleasant went out to Sweden-  
 bore to check the Greylock and have a  
 merry time. But I gave up our dinner  
 although it was an extremely warm day  
 we had a merry time. Our boat joined our  
 party in order to fish, but the same up with  
 his boat and invited us to ride. I think  
 we will after we finish the Greylock  
 just before we left had three brought in an  
 arm full of Catbirds saying we might

Send as many as we wish and to who we  
wish and the way for the postage.  
I can assure you we thought of every body  
we knew and some we did not, and sent  
them, and I thought of sending you several  
but considered to wait for the new ones come.  
There is a circus just over here they have been  
performing all day I hope they will have soon.  
I had a trunk from New York yesterday with  
dresses and other things for Ag. I did not  
get me a wrap but a what wrap a pair.  
I have had me made a black riding dress  
and my brother sent me a light brown hat.  
So I am ready for a race with you.  
I think we will leave for home the 2<sup>nd</sup> of  
July. I wish you would wait and go with  
us. My brother thought of going some of the  
way.  
To say it Friday Mary had we had regular  
receptions. No, <sup>more</sup> comfortable glorified.  
My sister and Mary I have gone to the  
bath care for Mary's health.

We went last week to hear the lecture of  
Devine. I was so tired I could not enjoy it.  
They repeated it this week but none of us  
went.

We shall probably have a picnic on the  
fourth. Come won't you? I'd make room  
for you right by my side. I would like to  
give you a good kissing today and sometime  
too.

I think Mary you have a mighty gay  
time riding and going to parties.  
We don't know but who has the salarying  
but I think Julia B. will get. I hope she  
will.

Then come Eva - the best too and says  
perhaps she will write to me tomorrow to you.  
She's best too.

You cannot imagine how richly the parlor  
look this time, a new picture, curtain &c.  
Write soon this time please.

Yours truly  
Agatha



Miss Mary Duncan  
Care H. J. Duncan Jr  
Cambridge  
Mass



I send you the ribbon to bind the cushion for your boys. I hope it will not be long. Have you given Mrs Sparks her? It is now white.

know, & ask his permission to purchase it -  
Dad intends to get a family Bible, with  
binding like the Queen's of England, that  
you gave me. You ought to write to Dad  
also to Dr Jenkins. Have you written to your  
General yet & congratulated her & the Gov?  
All your friends enquire for you whenever I  
meet them & desire to be remembered to you  
& tell them you send your love to all enquiring  
friends so <sup>that</sup> they may take it to themselves.  
Do not give yourself the slightest uneasiness  
or anxiety about my staying at home or  
visiting. I only know that my dear  
children are well & sustaining themselves  
in all their duties & relations. I am content  
& happy. Take care of your health &  
charge your dear brother to be very prudent  
he cannot be too cautious, those neuralgic  
affections are not easily gotten rid of &  
every imprudence brings it back -  
Give my kindest regards to Mr Sparks  
family also to the Jacobs. B. & L. join in  
much love to Dear sister & daughter.  
God bless you. Your ever affectionate  
Mother

Duncannon Nov 6<sup>th</sup> 50  
Thursday

My dear daughter

Your welcome letter  
is just received, I regret that dear  
Hal is so indisposed, but hope with  
care he will be entirely relieved.  
I expect the violent exercise he was en-  
gaged in heated his blood, & expo-  
sure to the cold winds brought it on.  
He must be more prudent or he will  
ruin his health before he is aware.  
I hope you will soon <sup>have</sup> your work done  
it is time to put on good warm clothing  
your cotton chemise & drawers by all  
means, I have been quite anxious  
about your not having a quilt, you  
had better have one made if it is  
only made of the colored cambric.  
I am truly glad that Mrs Sparks  
& the Dr are getting well. I hope  
to hear soon that they are entirely  
recovered. How are you getting on  
in your school? you never men-  
tion Lucy, how do the "snubs"?



demean themselves? How does Lucy get along with the A. C. ladies? Is Lucy an agreeable companion? Tell me all that concerns you & your school & school mates, there could no help for materials to write I should think, if the time permitted, you should learn to economise your time, as you have so little time to write. I am very glad you write to your father, for he does not seem to like it & does not feel any obligation to write to you, & it relieves me when I am under a pressure, You have not told whether you received all that was packed in your father's trunk, he being at the Hotel & not particular in locking up something may have been taken, & then you were for some weeks unable to get boardings & some things one place & some another, now that you are collected & fixed it would be advisable to arrange & observe all, be prepared for cold weather, in the shoe line there will be no difficulty as you left well supplied, How do you manage to get them blacked? the hard bill is enough to have every thing of the sort attended to, If your improvement is according to the expense it will be quite satisfactory, I have not seen any of your friends that have visited you, since their return.

I presume Miss Jacob returned to Louisville as she has not been to church, & I have not heard of her being at Ashland, Miss Maties left us on Tuesday afternoon & I suppose is very near home, she has been with us ten days, she is quite a nice young lady, it made me feel very sad when she bid good bye, but there is a prospect of having her for a neighbor the queen of Castleton, Wont it be pleasant? Dr & Mrs Brown were out last night, they go to Ill next week, Mrs B was very sad I have never seen look so badly, she does not like to leave Ky, & Joe's father has taken her away to California & it has grieved her very much, she can not speak of her without filling up with tears, And what do you think? Mrs Thane wanted to come out with them to our house, Dr B. told him that he could, <sup>not</sup> come with him after doing as he had, that he should see Mr Duncan & ask his pardon for his conduct or make some explanation before before he could go with him, Does not this show some symptoms of returning season? Concerning your bride present I am unable to say any thing, in my conversations with your father about it, he remains silent; The best way for you to do is to look out some thing you would like to get & learn the value of it & let your father



Miss Mary Duncan  
Care of Dr Agnew  
Pittsfield  
Mass



in Pittsfield & come on  
here in September. But  
since the room is taken &  
you can be fixed this  
term it will be as well  
for you to come provided  
you can make the ~~change~~  
arrangement with Agnew  
about your paying \$100 - if  
you instead of \$200 -

I reached here safe &  
& - My love to you &  
Miss Lallie & Miss Waters  
Your affe brother.

DUNCAN

write as soon as you  
receive this!!!!

Cambridge. Feb 28<sup>th</sup>/56

Dear Sister

I find that the next  
term of Agassiz commences  
in May instead of September  
also that Mrs Sparks has in  
compliance with Mothers  
request "to engage the room  
at Mrs Clapps for you for  
the next term" engaged it  
- So you see you can  
come to Cambridge at that  
time - I wish you to say  
to Dr Agnew that in conse-  
-quence of the engagement  
made for you by Mrs Sparks  
you will not be able to  
remain at the Institute  
longer than that time  
or to pay him for only  
one half of the term

which will be \$100. At any rate you ought not to pay him for more than one half the term, until we can hear from Mother & Father whether they wish you to come to Cambridge.

I suppose they will be governed by your wish in the matter. You see Mrs Sparks has taken the room & we will have to pay for it at any rate whether you come or not unless some one else wants it.

Agnew may want you to remain the whole term and to pay \$200. But I suppose if you say to him that you will come to Cambridge and that you are willing

to remain at the Anstutute until the first of May, i.e., during March & April.

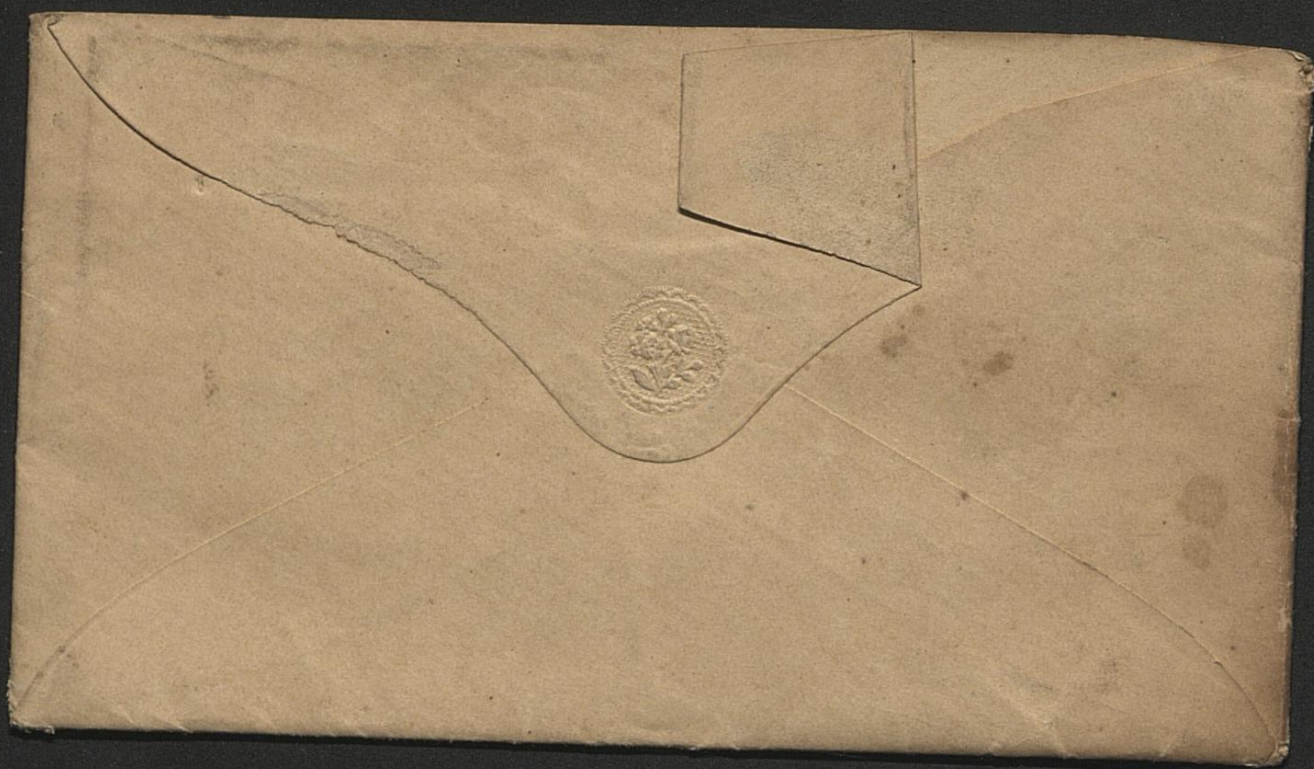
You must write to me and tell me what you can do - also write to Mother & let her know your mind you had better do so immediately so that the matter can be arranged as soon as possible.

I think of coming to Pittsfield on tomorrow evening and spend Saturday with you & talk the matter over but I suppose you can get on without my coming on to Pittsfield - at any rate if you had rather see me I will come to Pittsfield on Saturday week.

I had rather you could have spent this term,



Miss Mary Duncanson  
Care of Dr Agnew  
Pittsfield  
Mass



Lexington Jan 9<sup>th</sup> 1857.

My Beloved Daughter

Your joint letter to your Mother  
& myself came duly to hand last week  
written immediately after Christmas which is  
the last intelligence we have had from you  
whether you are froze up or not we cannot  
tell - we seriously fear that you have been  
a great sufferer by the cold - as we have  
experienced here, since Christmas eve  
the most protracted & continuous spell  
of Cold weather - we have ever experienced  
in this climate - and to day is the coldest  
of the winter - the ice on the pond is  
some 8 inches thick - we are all in doos  
black and white - as much as we can do  
to keep warm - Great suffering with the poor  
Henderson went into Market this morning  
says there was 2 men frozen to death last  
night - I have feared that your husband was  
very cold - as it is not half healed or was  
not when I was there



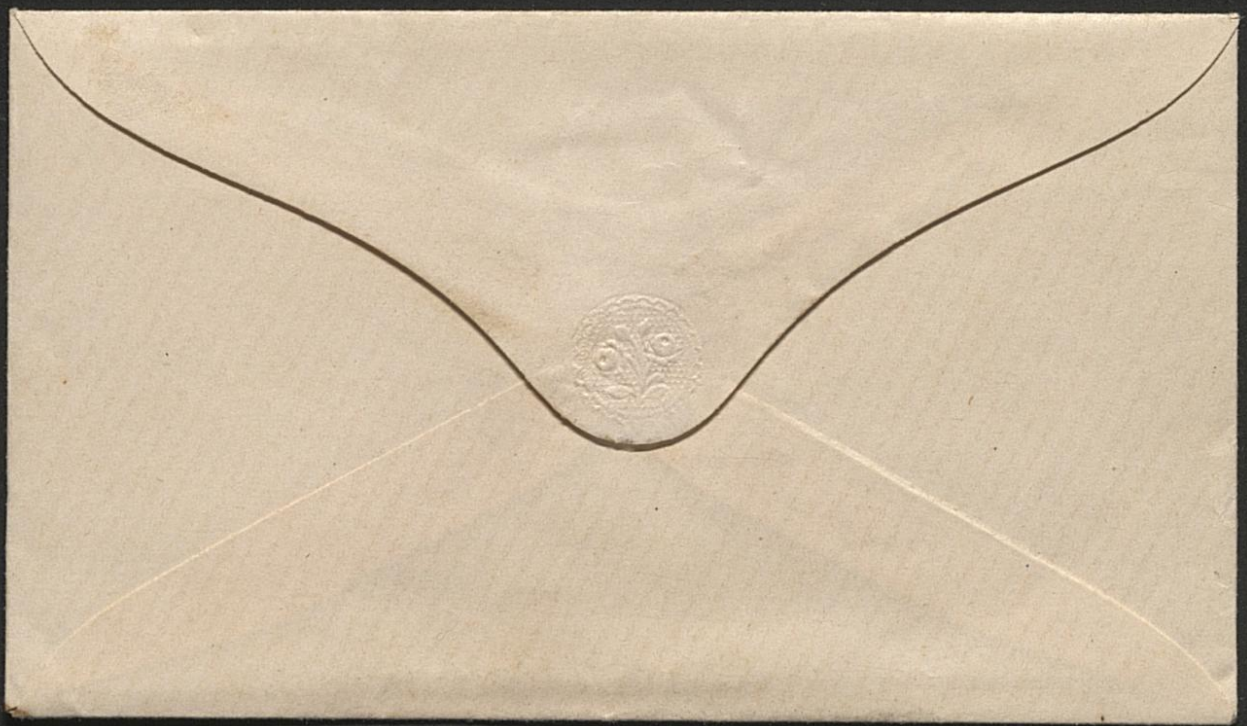
You must not fail to write us regularly  
as we are awfully uneasy - and when  
you do write, I hope you will not post up  
your letters as you have the 2 or 3 last  
the letter is half destroyed & greatly delayed  
in getting them open - If you have no  
envelops - fold up your letter - after the  
fashion of this & sealed in the same way  
you can certainly for 5 cents buy you a  
box of wafers & at the Post Office you  
can purchase Envelops with the Stamps  
on - The Envelop I send this sealed letter  
in - I purchased at the Post Office - and  
you can procure the same at P.O. in Pittsfield  
Go Mr. Aquino to purchase a package  
of them for you & certainly at the Book  
stores you can get letter paper of the  
size of this I am writing upon - do furnish  
yourself & seal up your letters better than  
after, we have had a quiet dull Christmas  
Two parties growing out of wedding of  
Mrs. Bell to Miss Warfield - One at Mrs. Bell's  
which I attended - a very splendid affair

that at Mrs. Warfield's - I regretted we were  
prevented from attending It was a very  
light affair, and was all I understood that  
could be expected from a Lady of Mrs.  
Warfield's Castle - I was very agreeable  
and elegant

Elle is trying hard to produce a letter  
but as yet without success - It has been  
on hand over 2 weeks and she is on the  
second page - whether she will  
get through this winter is doubtful - she is  
a very child - to will take a Yankee to get  
her at work - I have been surprised to  
find you unwilling to quit Pittsfield for an  
other school - for you must recollect  
that I get very impressions of the school  
from you - It is the last winter you  
will spend there - the climate is too  
rigorous - the younger Miss Anderson  
will be on to Pittsfield again at school in  
a few weeks All join in much love  
to you

Your devoted Friend  
A. J. Duncan

Miss. Mary Duncan





City of Boston  
December 8<sup>th</sup>

Dear Mary

Having heard that you were so well pleased with your school, I feel induced to write and know for I have not yet certainly decided where I shall go. And if it would not be troubling you, I wish you would please send me a circular - Also please tell me, how many girls there are in a school. I have quite a horror

of there being more than  
two or three.

As for their being strict, that  
I shall expect, so if they  
are not, I will be agreeably  
disappointed.

Although I should not go  
until next summer, I wish  
to feel decided about it in  
my respect now.

I am selfish enough to hope  
that if I should go there  
next summer, you will go  
an other year longer.

Then I could feel that  
I was not entirely alone, and  
among all strangers.

Do not doubt think me, too  
selfish, in wishing it, for  
you must know from  
experience, that <sup>it</sup> is very  
natural.

I have been told that

French was spoken in  
the school. Now that  
would be a great induce-  
ment, for I am very  
anxious to perfect myself  
in it. I am now taking  
lessons from the Tutor, and  
he says I can speak <sup>it</sup> well,  
in a year, but I dare not  
hope it, although I shall  
try.

I hope you will answer,  
and give me all necessary  
particulars. With much  
affection I remain

Laura Russell

Not knowing your address  
I shall send this for  
your Ma to direct  
Laura.

Mr. & Mrs. Walker

request the pleasure of

Miss Durcan's

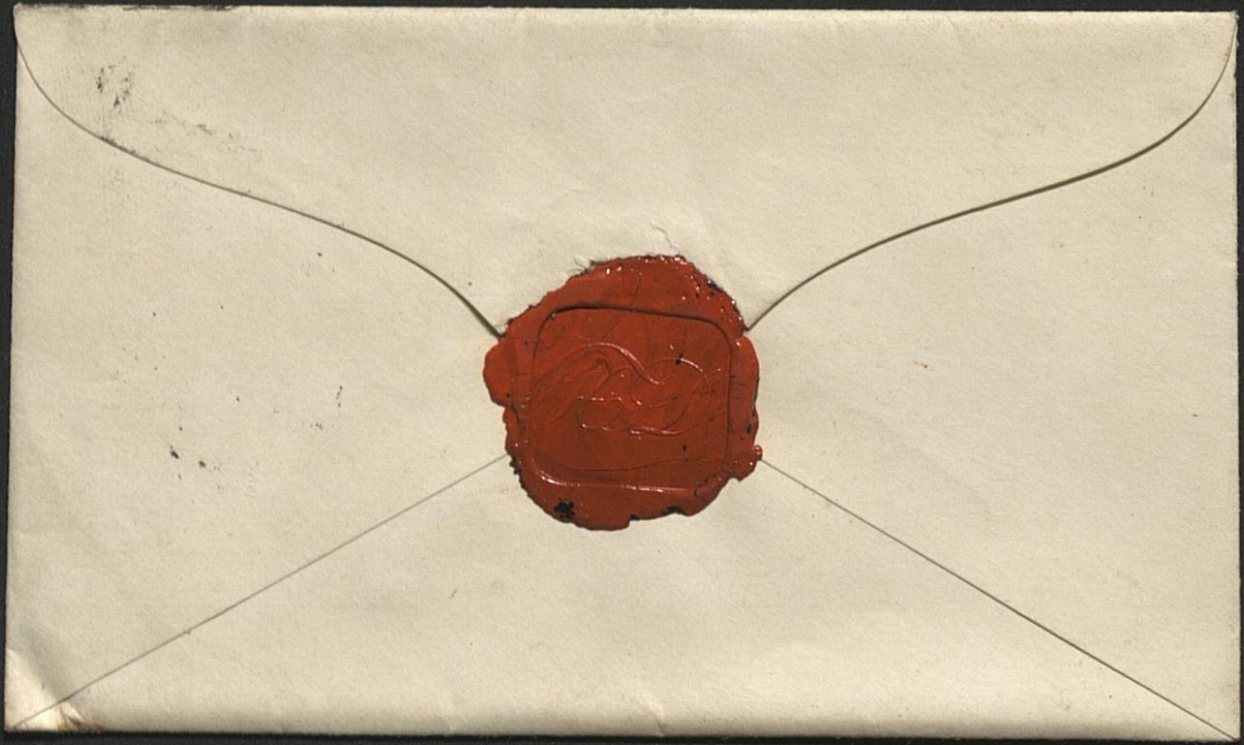
company on Tuesday evening

Dec 30<sup>th</sup>

Quincy Street.



Miss Mary Duncan  
Care H. S. Duncan  
Cambridge  
Mass





Dec. 20<sup>th</sup> 1850

When the snowflakes skim down & the strongest winds  
so blow,

And the icicles hang over the streams - ~~lets~~ below;

When the woods are all bare and the birds  
sing no more,

'Tis winter, cold winter, the last of the year.

My dear sister

When I got up this morning  
the ground was all covered with snow & it was  
snowing very fast & last night it was raining  
when we went to bed quite a change, yesterday  
silly & I was running all night.

Father had a few gentlemen out to dinner  
they other day they seemed to enjoy them-  
selves very much they went away as  
many as larks they drank four bottles  
of wine after they had gone out of the  
dinning room I found up three tumblers  
of wine and ship drank one & got a little

lets she said that he had not felt so happy  
since she was a little girl she seemed  
quite happy when she went to the smoke house  
to get out soap she spilled the soap from  
the hoop to the kitchen.  
How do you get along with your hearting?  
I am going to get brother to learn me how to shoot  
& shoot when he comes home so that when  
father is not at home & any body gets after  
the turkeys I can shoot them & when father  
is at Bedford if any body gets in  
the house & we should hear them down stairs  
I should get my pistol & go out to the stairs &  
call if no body answer I should say to mother  
do they could hear me I stepped out were  
mother & then shoot mothers room door  
& slip back to the stairs she will hear I  
heard the noise I should not say a word but  
fire I would not try to kill them but hind  
them so that they could not get away &  
then we would know who it was.

I suppose at this time my watch you & but  
will be in Salem we are to spend our  
Christmas in Louisvillle with cousin Mary  
Board I send you a little knife for to have  
an your watch it is nice to sit with instead of  
a pin I wanted to send you a brass time  
gift but I will have to send it by brother  
you must let me all about your Christmas  
I'll tell you about mine that's fair is  
it not.

I must finish my letter in a hurry  
for it is time it was at the office now.

All yours in love to you & brother.

Your devotedly sister

Elen Duncan

P.S. dear brother I for got to ask of you  
a good favor, will you please to look for  
the bible given in there not for a Christmas  
gift for father & bring it home with you  
I forgot to say board in calf skin.

E. Duncan



Miss Mary Duncan  
Care W. T. Duncan Jr  
Cambridge  
Mass



accident, ~~He~~ also says that  
you are handsomely ma-  
stronized, success & health to  
all in this merry exercise,  
There is nothing of importance  
transpired recently, only that  
weddings seem to be an epidem-  
-ic in this region. Many hap-  
-pyness attend them. It is  
quite ludicrous to hear how  
your father describes the Dr in  
Ills, just to think of him pack-  
-ing in great logs of wood to  
make a fire, & driving the ox  
waggon to feed the cattle, such  
a life for an educated man!  
there are plenty of rough people  
for that purpose, but enough -  
Give my regards to Mr & Mrs Sparks  
also to Lucy & brother, E. & do  
each writing to you & W. Much love  
to each of my dear children Your  
Mother

Duncannon

Dec 18<sup>th</sup> '56

My very dear daughter

Laura

Mr Russell has sent me a letter  
for you, she did not know  
your address, & desired me to  
direct it to you, as it is time  
that I should write to you I  
will enclose it in mine -  
Next week we propose to pass  
in Louisville, & in that case  
you will not receive another  
letter this year from me so I  
wish you "A Merry Christmas  
& a happy New Year" Since  
Wals's last letter saying that  
you had left off composition  
& music, your father seems  
quite vexed, he & I are divided

about the two subjects, I am desirous that you should attend to & excel in each of them, but after you talked the former subject over when at home, the effect it produced on you, I concluded it had better be passed over than that you should go crazy about it. But the music was decidedly understood to be attended to with energy, I would by a great deal prefer you to be perfect in music than the German, There is something so refining & elevated in music, & besides it is so healthful, in the strengthening of the lungs. It is an accomplishment that contributes so much to the pleasure of others, but enough for the present, If you will

keep up your correspondence with your friends, that will be composition as improving as any other, without the ill effects of the former, I hope you are well prepared for the cold weather, I see you have supplied yourself with furs they can not be very nice for the price is low but perhaps furs are cheaper than here, Your father brought a kipplet of the Fitch out for me to look at, the price was \$50, & a small one for El at \$12 - I did not get them as I preferred to select from a good collection, when I get such an article, it is not one that lasts for some time, From Hobbs account you have fine sport skating, I hope none of you will meet with any serious

Miss Mary Duncan  
Care of Mr H. T. Duncan  
Cambridge  
Massachusetts



I must hurry and bring this paragraph to  
a close. All join in much love to you and  
dear brother. Your affectionate sister  
Ellen Duncan

Duncanston, April 7, 1856

My darling sister

I have not written to  
you for a great while & as I have now broken  
the ice I'll try & do better in future.

It has been a beautiful day & Lily was  
made quite happy as her hen hatched 19  
little chickens they are nearly all white Lily  
is in perfect ecstasy she has now 12 chickens  
Father brought her a beautiful Shanghai  
hen but it is sick. Mother Lily & me went  
out this evening to see them make a very large  
pinture it took four hoises to pull it.

The weather has been so warm the last few days  
that the lilac buds are quite large & the  
Apricot is in bloom. I have not <sup>wild</sup> ~~received~~ John  
yet what you said about the garden



being in apple pie order, No we are all  
so sleepy I must say good night

5 O'clock April 18 1850

Good Morning dear sister

The sun is up the  
birds awake & all in coras join it beautiful  
to hear them. The cars have just past it is quite  
pleasant to hear them some time ago the freight  
train caught fire one car was burnt up it happen  
in front of the house.

Mrs Morgan has a little baby about a month  
old I have not seen it yet we went over the  
other evening & they were not at home the  
dog got after mother and tore a piece out of  
her shall but it was in play.

Mrs Prodes come over to see Lily and I one last  
saturday I have not been <sup>over</sup> yet - she is  
about my age but is a good deal taller than I I think  
she is every nice girl but I do not know much about her  
she goes to Mrs Jackson school she likes it very  
much Father asked me yesterday how I would

like to go to Miss Plety Jenkins I said very much  
I want to go to school but not to town as there are  
very few girls that I should like for school mates  
for there is good and bad as is the case in all schools  
there fore I think we will learn as much at  
home I think it very true that one sickly  
she infects the flock & poison all the rest.

Lily & I have been out feeding the little  
chickens they are the prettiest little creatures  
that ever were I have two hens that will  
hatch next week I have a dozen little  
chickens but I have not seen them.

Mrs Sayre has been sick for a month she has the  
piles mother went to see her the other day she was  
able to sit up she told me when I wrote to you  
I must give you his love she always enquires  
for you. Mr Sayre told me to give his love  
to the children. Mother went to Mrs Derringers  
apprising cloth got an English straw lined  
with white & blue inside mine is white and blue  
Lily's the same.

FAIRBANKS  
APR  
18  
CONN.

Mrs Mary Duncan.

Pittsfield Seminary.

Pittsfield.

Mass

take me to see St Thomas to-morrow.  
I would like to know what kind  
of a time you have had this last vaca-  
tion. Write me word what you have  
been doing and tell me something about  
Pittsfield and your school for I cannot  
form any idea of what kind of a place  
you are in. Mrs Johnston is going to  
Paris to live and I suppose Mrs Duncan  
will go with <sup>her</sup> but she will be on here  
before she goes. Do you remember seeing  
a young girl by the name of Ahlhorn  
when you were here. She said she saw  
you. I must close now as it is almost  
tea time and both my pen and ink  
are in a miserable condition. Do write  
soon my dear Mary to your ever true and  
Dont you think you affectionate  
will ever come to school at Miss Co's Emma

Give my love to your father & mother,  
Ellen and Sally when you write.  
I cannot help adding the prayer that GOD  
may bless <sup>us</sup> my dear Mary from all dangers  
both of soul and body and draw her nearer  
to Himself each day. There are few I think  
that can be long at Miss Co's without feeling  
the blessed influences of religion and the  
Church. ~~Do not forget me~~ Please excuse  
this my darling Mary and do not forget me.  
I have not time to write it over. Emma

New Haven April 18<sup>th</sup> 1834

My Dear Mary  
I expect you begin to  
think I am not the good girl you asked  
to write to you soon but we have been  
so busy as we always are at the close of  
school. There are only two of us left and  
the other girl (Belle Tiffany) will leave  
day after to-morrow for New York. It seems  
very queer Mary to board only a few steps  
from Miss Edwards but we go over there  
two or three times a day. I wish you could  
come over to room with me both here  
and at school for Miss Mary told me

this morning that my room mate was  
not going to return and I do not feel  
as if I should like to room with a stran-  
ger. Belle amuses me so much when she  
puts on Broadway gaces and promenades  
the room. I am going to spend a few days  
in Cheshire, a small village fifteen miles  
from here and the rest of the time  
I will remain in New Haven. Perhaps though  
I may go to Bridgeport to see one of the girls.  
The other day a lady friend boarding at the  
Wentworth asked Belle and myself to come  
and sit with her in the morning and  
bring our work. We did not do much  
work for she made us some beautiful  
candy up in her room. I would have  
given anything to have seen your father  
when he came on that is if he came.  
If we had had our vacation at the

same time I would have found some  
way of seeing you dear Mary or I would  
have asked Miss Wright. Mrs Mitchell from  
Georgetown was here a little before school  
closed. Are you going home this summer  
Mary or see your father and mother com-  
ing on to take you traveling. Perhaps I  
will go home and take two of the girls  
Sister Nollie, Sister Fannie and their  
husbands have gone to New Orleans and  
expect to go to Cuba as Sister Fannie's health  
is not good. Don't you think you can  
contrive to come over to see me sometime.  
It seems a pity that we cannot get a  
glimpse of each other when we are  
such a little distance apart.  
I have never seen a church consecrated  
and Miss Caroline is coming round to



*Mr. J. M. ...*  
*...*  
*...*  
*...*







Prof. W. S. Dummer,  
Care of Mr. W. S. Dummer,  
Cambridge,  
Mass.



I must shut this you an affectionate adieu

Your Dear  
Friend  
11. Oct. 1856  
New York

Chas. L. D.  
Cambridge  
Mass.

P. S. Boston Garrison would be remembered.  
To you I talk & much about the baby sends  
your Devotee



New York Dec. 18th 1856  
Chas. L. D.

It was most kind and  
gratifying from you saw me the greatest pleasure  
I had almost started to hope. When you told me  
you had received my letter I was glad to hear  
and that you did not think that I should  
I would do not let the old and school leave  
that pleasure for an other season  
I received a long and delightful letter from  
our mutual friend Miss Cunningham Moore  
she told me and Mrs. Garrison and family were  
well. When you write to these letters I must  
tell them I am not leaving and would like to  
hear from them to be sure they were. I have been  
unable to hear from them before leaving at your  
parting. It would give me much pleasure to  
hear from Garrison. I think I will write to  
you faster and often soon.  
In the way have you written to Mrs. Webb yet or  
since she has left us? I am ashamed to ask  
because that I am delinquent. I intend soon  
to get back and send the present you wish  
I see today but better late than never.

I had a delightful <sup>word</sup> from your brother and I think  
you might have some idea had I known that you  
paid a visitation at that time I should have written  
for you to spend it with me.

I see that you are still out since the coming  
the and your father spent with me. I think of  
spending my holidays next with her in either of the  
I presume I shall be the part of next week about  
Wednesday. I wish to much I could see you  
and my brother at liberty I would come up some  
time.

Miss Bacon called to see Mrs. Pitt Cook - she is  
now down on Wednesday and on her way to  
sell in Bell Spalding. She is in school at Newington  
I have heard that one French Italian teacher  
Mrs. G. of Kiplingwood had quite a flirtation  
with each other. The work alone with her  
to the other only a month. I was very sorry to hear  
that at you have felt it one of our interests - do  
not you repeat that on any thing I tell you  
I hear from Bedford it looks like at school you may  
be to see.

Miss C. is here at school at day at even. I shall  
to see her about once a week.

Miss Smith is here under the Dr. & Lane.  
I wish to much you and I were at Devonian  
that moment. I had such a charming time then  
after you left - but I was forgetful that happy hour  
we have spent together - say it large letter for  
the sake to kind to give me more than that I should

had much to enjoy one happy hour spent in  
the "Devonian". The night the weeks the morning  
through the city and they beautiful quiet little  
drive and at a generation length on them and  
they shall each their way. I am would have  
them eat once more. I had day by day at I float  
through those wood halls - down those pleasant  
paths following to the merry prattle of my love  
H. & D. I long to recall those of his part.  
But "Get the Times" or I shall be soon floating  
down the paths of my days.

I have had for some time very delightfully  
written and written in the same direction.

We received an invitation to attend a girls  
amateur concert at Mrs. Marshall Roberts on  
Friday eve - it was held in her magnificent picture  
gallery - it was delightful the chamber is frequently  
used to make it pleasant it was a brilliant  
performance. I am invited to another still  
more brilliant on Friday eve. I wish you were  
here to go.

I have heard of the and presume you have  
heard that.

Will you not please bear write more often?  
You know me too well <sup>not</sup> to think any thing of letter  
would be welcomed from you.

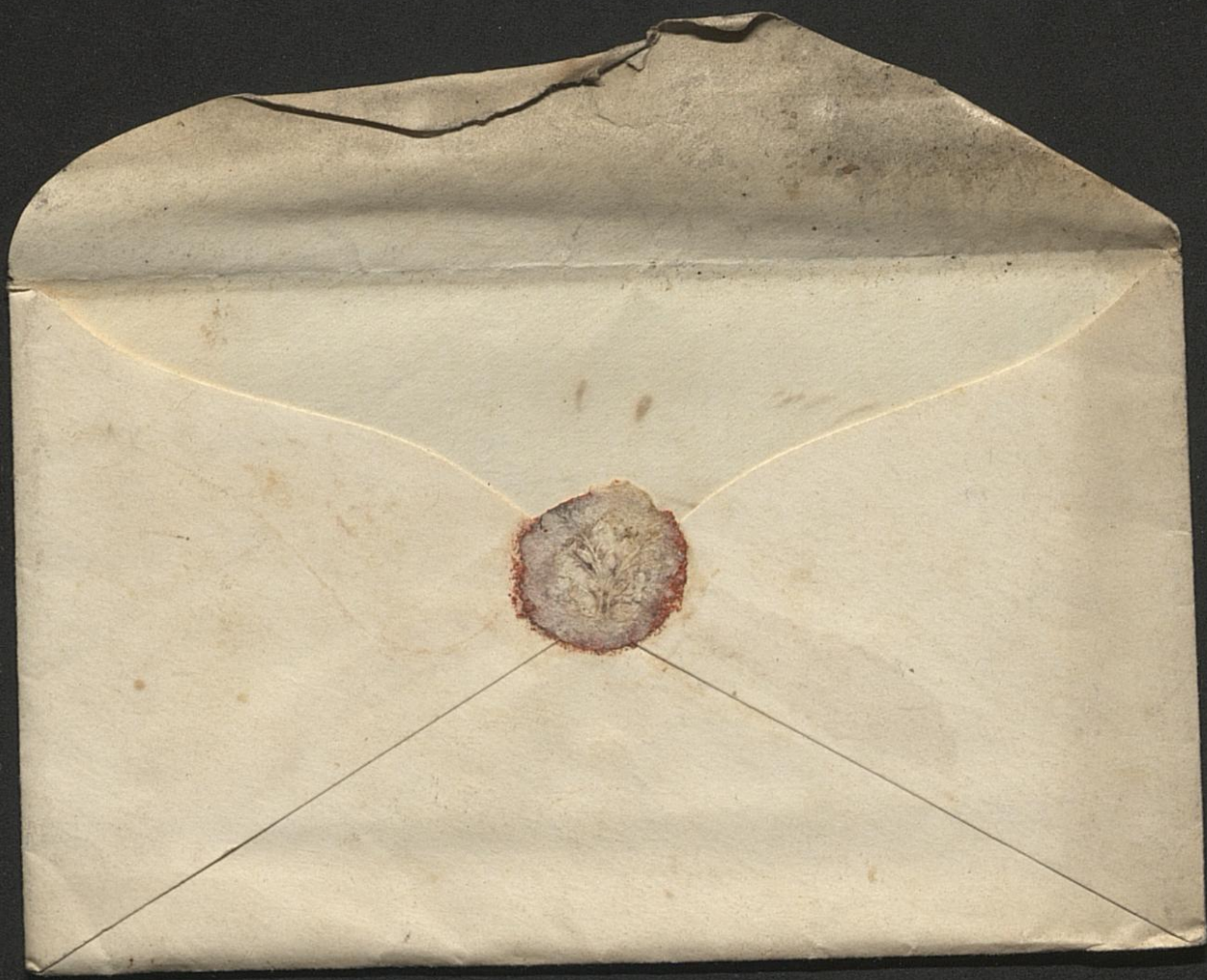
Will I see you soon to Miss G. I am going to  
kill up a baby and send her I wish you were  
here to tell me "ha, ha".

My love to your friend and make Miss J.



Miss Mary Duncan  
Care of B. T. Duncan Jr  
Cambridge  
Mass

NOV 20 1881



is not regarded as it should,  
Now my dear daughter do not for a moment  
suffer yourself to indulge the thought that  
I wish in the slightest degree to deprive  
you of any rational & necessary pleasure  
I am for young people enjoying themselves  
in all that is reasonable & lovely & pure.  
Your dear father left us this morning for  
Ill. he will be absent about a fortnight  
I trust he will be preserved from the perils  
of travel. In your brother's last letter he  
said <sup>his</sup> he would be in N. Y. this week  
how is his health? it seems that he is often in-  
disposed of late, it must be owing to some  
impudence, urge him to be careful of  
his health. Do Lucy an agreeable & desir-  
able room mate? do tell me all about your-  
self & how you get along with all, give  
my love to Lucy, her sister Kate came to  
Haystack last Saturday, I will make her a  
visit soon, regards to the Sparkses' Much  
love to you & <sup>Pat</sup> your aff<sup>l</sup> Mother

Duncannon Nov 25<sup>th</sup> 1856

My beloved daughter

A much longer time has  
elapsed since I last wrote you than  
should be, Several things in your letters  
I have neglected to say any thing about,  
One is in regard to your room, you  
must not keep it too warm, & be very  
certain to have it well ventilated,  
when you leave your room raise the  
window, & also before retiring to raise the  
window a few inches leaving it up during  
the night, it is not healthful to breathe  
over & over the same air, & the smaller  
the room the greater the necessity for fresh  
air - pay particular attention to this, also  
sufficient exercise in the open air,  
each of which is absolutely necessary  
for health, how is your health now?

How are you in regard to the case you  
complained of when home & for some time  
before? let me hear particularly from you.  
In regard to your passing two or three  
evenings of the week in company the  
Opera &c &c I think is quite incompatible  
with study & health, once a week is  
as often as would be advisable, & as  
you are pressed for time to write home  
Would it not be as well to occupy a  
portion of it in communicating with  
distant friends? I do sincerely hope that  
you will improve in this respect, E & L  
rec'd a nice note from Miss Waters a  
few days since, & she said "I have not  
rec'd a line from Mary yet I am afraid  
she is forgetting me, it is a sad thought  
for me." The art of writing is a beautiful  
messenger of thought, I wish you could be  
prevailed on to practice it more & become

a ready writer, Next to fine colloquial  
powers, the art of easy & ready writing is  
a beautiful accomplishment, which would  
delight me exceedingly, Then the want of  
a desire to join the Bible class, if you  
have the time to devote to it I would prefer  
to miss some of the evening gatherings, the  
knowledge of the Bible is all important, it  
should be our chief object, & it is one you  
will never regret, & that is a great induce-  
ment, just to reflect that you are engaged in  
a duty that you will never regret, Oh!  
that I could urge this duty in words half  
equal to its importance, We live in  
times sadly defective in the regard to  
the study of the Book - I am afraid  
that you & W. will loose all reverence  
for serious things, This world & the concerns  
thereof seem to be the chief concern in  
the region you live, even the Sabbath