

I shall write again to Mr  
Ballard

Ch<sup>r</sup> & Barbara at least  
accounts were still at Niagara  
being entertained by Mr Porter  
who married Mr Liffnes daugh-  
ter & Miss Porter the niece  
of Mr McKimridge and not  
looked for as early as expected  
If they make their N York  
trip

Your Brother starts to mor-  
row for Illinois

All well & give me  
much love to yourself Mr  
Adrian & the children & give  
the dear Susan Lucy and  
Elice Dunster for us all

Yours affectionate Father  
H. L. Duncan

*[Faint, illegible text]*

111  
Lexington Jan 7<sup>th</sup> 1848

My Dear Daughter

You are without  
any tidings from yourself, Hent  
and the dear Children since  
the return of Cyprus we fairly  
trust that you are well and  
have experienced, no sickness  
or indisposition since you left  
us and that the children are  
all well

After you left their has  
been some complaining from  
cold - with some throat - all are  
now well - Not the slightest  
symptoms of the presence of  
any epidemic - or cause for  
further apprehension  
We miss you more than ever  
and the bright joyous children

Our happiness my dear Mary  
is never full without you &  
their presence - If all continue  
well - upon Harts return to Frank  
-fort I shall send for you to  
spend the ballance of the winter  
with us -

On yesterday Henry & Sely  
spent the day with us - also  
Willie & Ellen - with Mr. Taorhies  
The day though pleasant as  
it well could be - surrounded  
us forcibly of the dear about  
one - Those that we hope to  
see in health & the dear Boy  
we shall see no more in the  
vale of tears - His own little  
chair will never be filled  
again - by the side of his  
grand Mother

But my dear daughters  
as soon and trying as are

These afflictions - they are inter-  
for our own good & profit - I  
trust in God - they will be by  
us all improved - These trials we  
should meet with fortitude and  
resignation - He has left in all  
the innocence of a bright child-  
hood - for a brighter and  
endless & eternal happiness in  
a world that knows no grief  
Dear I beseech this signal be-  
renewment, as becomes a Chris-  
tian - with full resignation &  
confidence - in his joyous and  
happy state - We should all  
prepare to meet him - with  
your Brothers & Sisters - who have  
gone before - to me this Idea  
has great consolation

I have written as you  
requested to Mrs. Balland  
but have had no answer

Lexington Jan 4<sup>th</sup> 1857

My Dear Daughter

I have got through with the vexations of Christmas - all the servants returned home except one Mary at Bedford (Turner) who I fear is sick - We have had a season of unusual cold protracted cold weather - we are busy getting ice - hope to finish to day, the Christmas has been an unusually dull one - But one party which we did not attend - another to night at Mr Henry Bills - given to his son who married Miss Hoopfield - I am trying to coax and persuade your Mother to go - so far without success - She says she cannot & will not leave the children here by themselves - So I fear I shall have to go by myself - We shall soon be looking for your Brother home - I wish your vacation and his came together - It would suit much better - then we could always have you at home together - I really my dear child have nothing to write about - I am much occupied in looking after my business - shall go to Bedford to morrow - I have recd several letters from Dr Jenkins he is well pleased &c All well & send you much love

Your devoted Father

A. J. Duncan



Miss Mary Duncanson  
Care of Rev. G. Holmes Agnew D.D.  
Pittsfield  
Massachusetts

Lexington Feb 11<sup>th</sup> 1854

My Dear Daughters

We have not had a line from you since - week before last - But attribute it to the difficulty of the mails getting along

Your Brother & Mother are both busy at this moment packing Henry trunk for a flying trip to Louisville for a day or two - He proposes to start back on the latter part of <sup>next</sup> week - so that you may expect <sup>him</sup> at Pittsfield in all of week after next - He has complained much of the cold since his return - we have had the hardest & coldest winter I have ever felt in my climate

staying for now nearly 2 months  
There is now some appearance  
of a thaw at last - It is now  
raining lightly - but I think will  
turn into a snow -

You have had a quiet and  
dull winter - yet have enjoy-  
ed unusual health

Your Brothers - will soon  
be with you and give all the  
news

Hal I expect will have  
a pleasant winter visit to  
Louisville - We all hope my  
Dear Daughter that you will  
spend your vacation agreeably  
and next vacation you will  
spend it with him either at  
home or elsewhere - you shall  
not be left alone another  
vacation - But he was here

this hard & cold winter

All join in much love  
and many kisses

Yr Devoted Father

W. L. Duncan



Care of Rev J Holmes Agnew D.D.

AJL

Miss Mary Sumner

Pittsfield  
Mass

Mail

Lyngton Nov 25<sup>th</sup> 1854

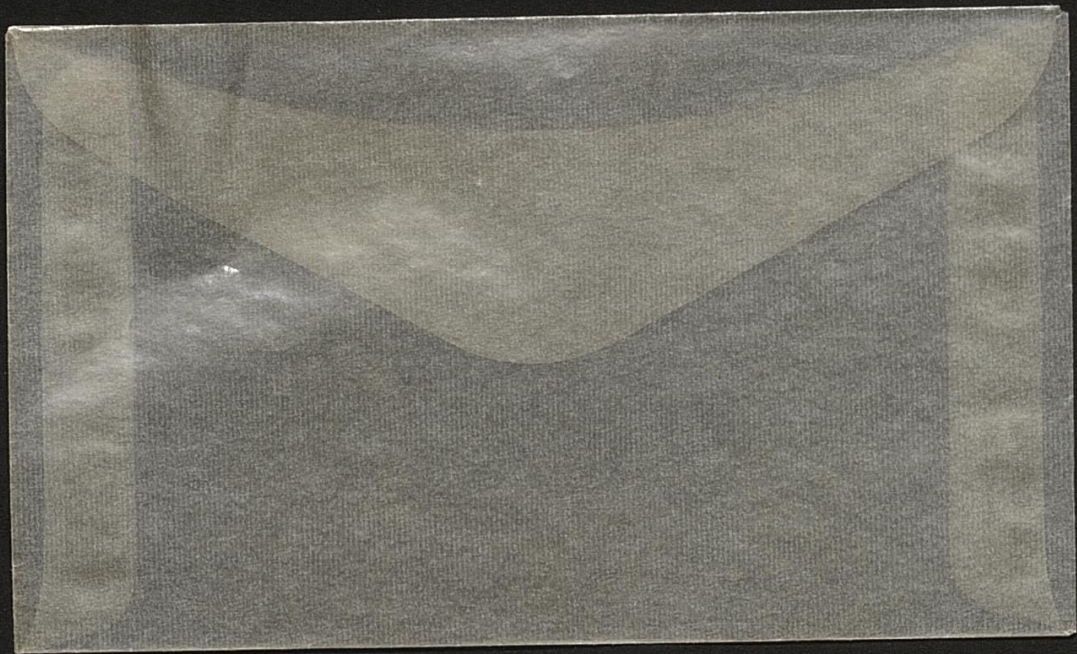
My dear daughter

I arrived home safely & found all well & most anxious to hear from yourself and Brother - of whom I gave a satisfactory account

You have nothing new worth commu-  
nicating - except that your Cousin Maria  
says she is going to Kincross to spend her  
Christmas - whether she stays or not, I do not  
know - but think she had better do so - Mrs  
Rankin has a sale of her property and leaves  
Bedford some time in December - I shall rent  
out the House - I called upon Mrs Sayer and  
Mrs Groat on yesterday they both had many ef-  
fectual enquiries after you - & are solicitous  
that you may sustain a high position in  
school & acquit yourself well - I hope my dear  
daughter you have gotten through this week  
well - that you "break the ice", and proposed  
your composition & read to without shedding  
a tear - practice is all that you need to en-  
able you to compose with ease & facility  
and you should never omit the performance  
of this duty - resolve that you will do it  
and it is more than half accomplished  
and will become a pleasure to you - never  
omit







You speak of Mr. Mahan visiting the next  
summer - should he do so - say to his daughter  
that I should be most happy to see him &  
show him something of the land - and shall expect  
him to make my house his home during his  
sojourn - and that he must advise me of  
his movements - so that I be in place - my  
regards to Miss Eva (on Wed. day) as you have to



Ms. Mary Anne  
Pittsfield  
Massachusetts  
Dec. 20. 1854

Lexington Dec 18<sup>th</sup> 1854

My Dear Daughter

Your most acceptable and  
affectionate letter of the 1<sup>th</sup> inst. came to  
hand to day, also yours to Lily - which of course  
was the occasion of great satisfaction and  
pleasure - The same mail brought one from  
your Brother to Ellen - of course it has been  
a day of special delightful pleasure to us  
all - not excepting the servants - who are  
always enjoyed to hear from you

Now - my daughter there was one thing alone  
that surprised us, and made us to feel un-  
pleasant - It was an enquiry of your Brother  
about you & desiring Ellen to let him know  
as he had not received a salutary line from  
you since he had parted from you though  
he had written you 4 letters of 4.8.12 & 20  
pages - How is this - In future make proper  
attention for this neglect, by never  
failing to answer every letter he writes  
you - make no excuse & permit nothing  
to prevent - nothing must interpose to  
prevent you - from performing so sacred  
a duty - Your Brother is a noble Boy  
and entitled to your particular atten-  
tion & warmest affection

I am spending at least one half of my  
time at Bedford since my return - and  
have been guilty of the folly of increasing  
my cares there - I have purchased of Mr  
Lewis this week his Clarkson farm adjoin-  
ing Bedford of 330 acres - for which I paid  
75¢ per acre - this addition has so enlarged  
my interest, as to make much of my per-  
sonal attention necessary - My plan is, and  
I have proposed to your Mother - that I  
build at Bedford a handsome cottage and  
purchase in Lexington a house as a  
winter residence & spend our summers  
at Bedford & dispose of this place - what do  
you think of it?

As to letters writing the more you do of  
it - the easier you will find to - and to will  
not be so much of a task - also your com-  
positions in school - they will both give  
you facility in writing & improve both  
your compositions and hand writing, their  
is I assure no more beautiful accomplish-  
ment to a young Lady - than ease and  
facility of writing - You now have full  
opportunity of practice in answering your  
various letters - In this you must be perse-  
verant & never put off & procrastinate, but  
resolve to do it - and do it immediately

This is the remedy for the difficulty - and  
if you resolve so to do - you will soon over-  
come all difficulty, and it will be a pleasure to  
you, and not a task - as to now seems to be

I regret to hear of the indisposition of  
your - charming young friend Mary Lapon  
give her all possible attention & see that  
she suffers from nothing - never been like  
a sister - I hope to will prove out - her  
prowess & that she will soon be restored  
to perfect health - Give her (in which all  
the family unite) our warmest love - and  
our earnest hope - that she will soon be  
restored to her usual health

If I can meet - with an opportunity I  
will send you a cheese & Baked ham  
In the mean time you have yourself a  
fine apple cheese or two - If they have  
not got to in Petersfeld - write to your  
Brother to make a purchase for you  
in Boston & bring you when he comes  
up at Christmas - which he proposes to do

I leave to Ellen the duty of giving you  
all the gossip & news - I know of none  
The family are all well & join me in  
expressing our warmest love & earnest hope  
that you will distinguish yourself in  
school -  
By Mother & Father  
H. Abbeens

I write you of my late purchase of Lewis  
a large addition to the Bedford Estate - you  
may not be surprised at my having some  
transactions some which will change things  
very much & yours & your Brothers absence  
is inclining my mind to travel like in winter  
at all events & country in summer - I wish  
your Mother to go to Bedford in summer  
& I will go to either Lexington or Louisville in  
winter - As Cousin Maria if she should  
prefer it - my interest at Bedford having  
increased so much at Bedford that  
I am compelled to be there so much  
that this town arrangement is impor-  
tant - as during my absence your Mother  
will feel so much more a feeling of  
Security that I am much disposed  
to the change - during my absence to  
Bedford almost half my time I think  
has to come out at night as a sort of  
guest - we have nothing new in  
Lex - your Mother & Sisters & Cousin  
Maria desire to be affectionately  
remembered to you  
P.S. My letters to you I may  
have omitted some times to direct  
to the care of Brother - have inquired  
made note to myself in the office

Your devoted Father  
H. T. Linneman

Lexington Dec 25<sup>th</sup> 1854

My Dear Daughter

Your affectionate letter of the  
20<sup>th</sup> inst just recd - to which I hasten to reply  
to - Here I am at Home with your Mother  
Ellen Lilly & Cousin Maria - I am just  
called to dinner & must stop - we are just  
up from dinner & part 5 - we have had a de-  
lightful sitting of 5 - all that was needed  
was the company of your Brother & yourself  
we had for dinner a Turkey - a fine mess of  
Sausages sent up by my friend Mr Pope  
from Louisville - a splendid glass of well  
bleached Sillery, Ham & vegetables &c &c  
with the addition of a nice Cherry pie which  
Aunt Betsey brought in & presented as her  
Christmas present gift - I ordered Jane to hand  
the old Lady a glass of Whisky which she  
swallowed with great apparent delight &  
as she done expressed a sentiment of warm  
and affectionate remembrance of her Henry  
& had Henry - whose absence she seemed  
greatly to regret & thinks that it was all  
that was necessary - to complete the pleas-  
ure of the day - Indeed my Dear Daughter  
yourself & Brother were talked of much  
& your absence regretted - we fondly hope  
soon

for a reunion at the family board. How  
happy we shall all be when your Brother &  
& yourself have completed your educa-  
tion & resumed your place in the family  
circle. Both I hope thorough & accomplished  
schollers - your example my dear Daughter  
upon your little sisters is to be wonderful  
If when you return - as I hope you will be  
highly accomplished & educated - to influence  
in exciting & awakening in Lil & El a spirit  
for improvement & study, such as will give  
impulse & desire for improvement & study  
such as will make them accomplished women  
of high character and position - destined to  
exert upon their day & generation a marked  
impression for all that is exalted and  
noble.

But I had forgotten myself, now my  
dear daughter - in all you have written us  
we have not a word of your studies or progress  
in school - you inform us that you had been  
almost under a nervous excitement fearing  
that you might be called upon for a  
composition on Composition day - but to  
your great joy you had not been called  
upon - so of your music - I hope you  
will not long, be thus slighted - and that  
you will soon have frequent opportunities

of reading your compositions - a particular  
in which you need much practice and  
attention - your hand writing can be  
much bettered - your spelling improved  
Indeed you must supply yourself with paper  
of the size of this I write upon, and  
take more pains in writing your letters  
give us long & carefully written letters  
not upon your thin paper sheets and  
tell all of your school - your progress  
in your studies - who your favorite one  
at school - in a word all that sort of  
particular and minute information - we  
feeling yourself we desire so much to  
have - How do you come on in your  
French? How in your Music? How in  
the studies - Do you ever converse in  
French with Monsieur & Madame Richard and  
you improving any in your music  
& singing - Have you looked into a Latin  
book since you left - Is your time  
fully & well employed - In a word  
are you a student - all this sort of  
detail from you will be most interesting  
as I believe you will give it in all  
 candor & sincerity - I prefer the infor-  
mation from yourself to seeking it through  
other channels - write me freely & fully

under no circumstances is it to be used  
for the prep- or copies of it taken - I know  
that it would interest you as it has us, you  
can enclose it to your Brother after  
reading it - Showing it to such friends  
as you desire - to the family of Dr Agnew  
as it is one of those rare & strange occur-  
rences in real life - that so deeply awakens  
all our sensibilities - "Truth is sometimes  
stranger than fiction"

Dr Agnew in a recent letter to me  
made the enquiry as to the price of Cheese  
such as you had - It can be had I think  
for 12 1/2 c per pound by the quantity - If I  
can get an opportunity - which I hope to  
do through Mr Shropshire - I will send you  
a box with Cheese baked Ham and a  
Turkey - with Corn dodgers - all of which  
Betsey says she must cook & prepare  
for you - I hope you have enjoyed your  
Christmas & that you have had the society  
of your Brother upon the occasion

My regards to Dr & Mrs Agnew & family  
especially my little Clara - with my  
love to Henry - I remain your devoted Father  
H. J. Duncan

Dec 26<sup>th</sup> 1854

My dear Daughter

Altho I wrote you on yester-  
day a long letter - I cannot recapitulate the inci-  
dents to give you a narrative of events that  
have come to light to day - In our own  
Colored family - one which in its incidents  
is most touching and romantic - which  
has awakened in us all a deep interest  
and warm sympathy

Many years ago - soon after Aunt Betsey  
was purchased in the State of Virginia &  
brought to this country (when but yet a  
young woman) by a man named \_\_\_\_\_  
(I omit the name) she had a daughter named  
Charlotte - then but a child some 8 or 9 yrs  
of age of delicate health - and long before  
your Grand Father purchased Betsey - this  
child Charlotte was disposed of & removed  
to a distant county of the State - so remote  
that the Mother had lost all knowledge  
of her Child - then of tender years & deli-  
cate health - years rolled on & Aunt  
Betsey (without any tidings of her) had long  
since concluded that she was dead as she  
could never upon the most diligent enqui-  
ry hear from her - this separation

took place more than a quarter of a century ago - In which time nothing had been heard of Charlotte - and the Mother had long since regarded her child as no more - and that she had <sup>been</sup> papered to that home from which no traveler returns,

Early this morning as the Cars were <sup>passing</sup> ~~were~~ passing to Lexington - The sharp whistle (as is usual <sup>where</sup> ~~where~~ persons stop at any hour) announced that some passenger was about stopping at my gate - Some a gentle well draped colored man - approached the house and enquired for Aunt Betsey - What will be your astonishment? when I tell you that he was the bearer of a letter to Betsey from her long absent and never forgotten Child Charlotte who had been separated from her in early life - to whom the old Lady had long since supposed to be in her grave and the bearer of the letter was no less a personage - than Charlotte's husband - and the Son in Law of the old Lady

Had one risen from the dead it could not have produced more effect upon Aunt Betsey - She gave way to feelings

the wildest transport of joy - to find her daughter her own Charlotte - still ~~living~~ <sup>and</sup> ~~and~~ <sup>was</sup> comfortably situated - The old Lady alternately shed tears of joy & thankfulness then she would laugh with delight, such a display I have rarely seen - All the strong emotions of a Mother's love has taken full possession of her soul - and I believe she would really lose her mind if she did not see Charlotte in the next 48 hours

I have given her permission to go & spend several weeks with her - She leaves in the Morning Cars - to see, to feel & realize the (to her) wonderful fact - that her daughter ~~was~~ <sup>is</sup> living - She goes to give a ~~mother's~~ <sup>mother's</sup> blessing & receive a daughter's love - which I hope will make the old Lady happy & add to the comfort & joy of her old age

This narrative my daughter I have written for you - knowing your attachment for Aunt Betsey - and the lively interest you will take in all that concerns her - especially in this thrillingly ~~novel~~ <sup>novel</sup> narrative & the old lady's perfect happiness upon the occasion - To a few of your friends you may show it - But



we expect Carl Cops will deliver the oration - upon the life & character of Henry Clay - I have written to him in behalf of the Monument Association & sent him their Resolutions inviting him to deliver the address & look for his reply daily upon the same day - The Monument Committee that has been appointed - will meet and select the design for the monument which is to commemorate the life and character of the great Statesman - we shall have a deeply interesting occasion of it - many of his old & true friends will be present from many states

I regret to hear of the indispositions of your two friends the Henry's - and hope they will soon be restored to their wonted health - my love to both of them with a kiss to each

With my regards to Dr & Mrs Agnew & family - particularly little Clara and your young friends generally - whose names you so often mention

With a Father's love and  
sincere wish - for your success  
in school - I am 7 - devoted  
Father H. Adkinson

Received at Pellyfield January 22<sup>nd</sup> 1852  
Washington Jan 22<sup>nd</sup> 1852

My dear Henry  
We have to day - a cold winter day - To help keep me at home - so that I have concluded to write you a letter - altho I am so much in advance to you upon this score - writing you 2 or 3 to one - Surely if you were sensible of the great pleasure your letters give us you would endeavor to write oftener and give us more details of your studies & progress - When I left you - I directed you to go to your French - music & singing - writing arithmetic & supposed you would by this time do something else - of your progress I know nothing - In French you should have made some progress - do you ever converse with Mrs Richard or his Lady? (of course in French) Have you yet found out whether your pronunciation is correct? Have you yet repeated the "Marseill's Hymn"? with what success - are you taking regularly your writing lessons? A small matter in which you need much improvement - In all your letters there is all the evidence of great haste & too much hurry & inattention - too much interlineation - Take your time and you will soon write an excellent letter - Has it yet been decided upon - to change the  
times

so as to have a long vacation in July and  
August - let me know - As I will come on for  
you then - that we may have you at home with  
us at that time - What are your hours of study?  
How many hours a day? I hope you are atten-  
ding to your habits of personal neatness - a beau-  
tiful thing in a young lady - In your inter-  
course with the young ladies are you atten-  
ding to all their rules of propriety & civility  
so important in a well bred lady - politeness  
that is habitual politeness to all - makes you  
many friends & costs but little - It makes the  
path of life easy & smooth - Now with those  
help efforts - they are plain girls - but one  
of your own neighbourhood - you should treat  
them with great kindness - they will take it  
well & return to you with grateful affection, had  
I have been with you on Christmas I should  
have suggested to you to have given <sup>them</sup> gifts  
The girls all from your own State - be es-  
pecially cautious to make them your first  
friends - I do not mean by this that you  
are to have with them confidential inter-  
course - But that sort of habitual kindness  
& civility which is so agreeable, to us all  
You speak in your letter of my sale  
of my residence - This is very doubtful  
As the times are too hard to expect the  
value

so that things are likely to remain so until  
better times, and the country is otherwise  
We have some hope - that your Brother and  
Mr. Chase his Tutor will come out to try  
& spend some months - until next fall, when  
health is delicate & he wishes to get some of  
absence for the balance of the present  
year - It is given him, I think it prob-  
able they will come out soon - your Brother  
will then be prepared to enter in ad-  
vanced standing at the commencement of the  
next academic year - Mr. Chase's letters to  
me speak very encouragingly of Henry's  
progress - His letters show great improvement  
Have you seen the Boston letter in the Aben-  
er & Reporter - giving an account of the  
Christmas festival at the Pittsfield Institute  
Who is supposed to be the writer - I have just  
written a letter to Mr. Anderson of Cincinnati  
inviting his son Nicholas to come over and  
make us a visit - He is such a favorite with  
Henry - who has formed for him a warm  
friendship - This I am pleased at - As I have no  
doubt he is worthy of it all - And his Father  
and myself have been long intimate friends  
We expect to have a grand celebration  
of Mr. Clay's birth day in Lexington - upon  
its next anniversary - the 12<sup>th</sup> of April  
when

Lex Feb 2<sup>th</sup> 1833.

My dear Daughter

Enclosed I send a ~~box~~  
Bill of Lading for a box containing  
containing a baked Ham a  
Turkey & a round of spiced  
Beef - with Corn dodgers  
& Crackers - all of which  
I hope will come safely  
to hand

Upon calling this morning  
for a cheese to put in, I  
found that all Marshall's  
good cheese - was sold - so  
I should have sent you  
one - you will see that I  
have paid the freight \$3  
so you have nothing to pay  
Your Mother wrote you this  
morning - I shall write you  
in a day or two  
Yr affectionate Father  
H. S. S. S.

to me - and trouble the Dr no more  
in future with any deposits - I shall  
pay him his own bills & no more &  
hand you your own funds - I could  
not comprehend before why he had  
failed to answer my letter on this  
subject - I fear <sup>not</sup>  
this course will do me

These things are for yourself  
alone - they annoy me not a little  
You still maintain your usual  
reserve ~~reserve~~ about your progress  
You inform me in your letter to  
day - that your teachers in music  
asked you if I did not desire to  
know your progress & improvement  
in music - But still you have  
not given me either his or your  
opinion on the subject - I am  
surprised at your hesitation  
in not conversing with Madam  
Richard in French - Commence at  
once & talk away - It is the only  
plan

Leopoldine Feb 2 1835

My dear Daughter

Your two letters - dated at  
different times from the 22 to 29<sup>th</sup> have  
to your mother and my self - was read  
to day - affording us great pleasure to  
hear from <sup>you</sup> and we wish that you  
would only afford us oftener this  
pleasure - by writing more frequently

I wrote you a line to day cover-  
ing a bill of lading - for a box, which  
contains a Ham - Turkey - & spiced round  
of beef - with a lot of Corn dodgers  
& crackers - which I hope will come  
to hand - You will observe that I  
here paid the freight in advance

Of course you will have to borrow  
a carving knife & fork to cut  
them & invite your friends to partake  
with you - not forgetting the  
Agnées & Madam Richard - I am  
Sincerely

that you are prohibited from par-  
chasing crackers &c. This prohibition  
I cannot understand - unless to be to  
prevent your spending your money  
too freely - and being thereby better  
able to contribute to the relief of  
New-York, which you are called upon  
to do - My opinion is that New-York is  
able to take care of her own poor  
without the aid of the Pittsfield Ins-  
tute - These frequent schemes of begging  
under the pretence of charity I do  
not approve - This thing of taxing you  
all for the so many applications for  
money is all wrong - there is want  
of proper discrimination about it  
And I wish you to exercise in future  
your own judgement upon these  
and when the object is not in your  
judgement - such a one - as has  
fair & proper claims - yet to and  
declines to give & do to firmly

I am surprised to hear that  
you

that you are not to be accommodated  
with boarding during the short va-  
-cation - But will have to hunt board  
in the town - you certainly are  
under some misapprehension on the  
subject & you had better enquire, then  
whose homes are at a great distance  
who could not be expected to make a  
visit - that would be so short - It strikes  
me as strange if you are to be put  
adrift to shift for yourselves during  
those few days - and this to be done  
by those in whose hands daughters  
from a great distance - has been  
confided - surely my daughter there  
is some mistake about it - Now I  
wish you to make enquiry of Mrs  
Agnew on the subject & let me  
know - I am surprised to hear that  
Mr Agnew did not pay over to Mary  
Lafon the 20% I requested him to do  
& shall at sight hand back to Mrs  
Lafon that amount which she  
boarded

for success, go ahead - I have no  
confidence that the proposed  
social class will be organized as  
promised - so that you must make  
the most of your opportunities  
with Madame Richard

Many Gentlemen will come on in  
the Spring certainly

Mr & Mrs Carter - spent the day  
here with us - He had many en-  
quiries about Pittsfield & the  
institute & I think will send on  
Mary & Annie - If the Institute  
is managed as it should be - it  
will become a very popular  
school in the West - Dr Agnew -  
has his fortune in his hands - If he  
properly improves the opportu-  
nity - I have written to Dr Agnew  
& presume he has read my letter  
stating that it was my pleasure  
that you go to the Baptist Church  
when you desired - with  
Yr affectionate Father  
H. J. Lawrence



Miss Mary Sweeney  
Pittsfield  
Mass

My Dear Mary

I send in the Box  
specimens from the "Mammoth  
Cave," also the fish without eyes  
from same place - also a Stone  
Hatchet - found near an ancient  
fortification on my farm.

These specimens I wish  
you my daughter to present  
in your own name - as a small  
addition to the already interest-  
ing cabinet of the Young Ladies  
Institute.

I send them by Mr Butler  
to Boston & you may receive  
them by express from that  
place - These specimens I  
promised Dr Agnew to send him

Yr affectionate Father

A. J. Dawson

Feb 6<sup>th</sup> 1852



Morelands of  
March 16



Sup Many American  
Case of Pittsfield  
Dr J Holmes Agnew Massachusetts

Boston March 15<sup>th</sup> 1825

My Dear Daughter

I recd last week your affectionate letter - which I have not answered earlier in consequence of my constant occupation with so many cares of business upon my mind. From the dating of this letter you will see that I am sojourning for several days at my bachelor establishment in Boston with no company - but the Brewer & 2 Irish laborers engaged in building Stone walls (very decent men however of the sort) - when at the house I occupy my own room - in reading or writing looking over farm accounts &c I have a very nice room pretty decently furnished - but I get very tired of this life in 3 or 4 days - I shall have to fix up a little better and bring your Mother and sisters down with me - when I can get along contented - I am just in from supper - I will describe it to you - a plain rough table covered with Oil Cloth - a dish of Cold shoulder of Bacon - a plate of Corn dodgers very good - butter & milk - a pot of Coffee 4 cups & saucers - puter spoons - dish of Sugar (brown) - I seated at the head dining out for the Irish & Brewer - so we go

breakfast much the same, pretty rough  
lineing - almost equal to yours at the in-  
-title - the breakfast at candle before  
day by candle light - my horse is then  
ready saddled & I ride in some three-  
-four until dinner - return fine - read the  
papers - If I have any - take a short - sleep  
- then If I spell to sleep - remount my horse  
and ride until night - this is a day at Bid-  
-ford - and such one all others - when I am  
ready to go home - I ride to the Rail Road  
Stops - when a servant is in waiting to take  
charge of my horse (old heathens) & ride  
him home - & I take the Cars & make the  
trip in some 22 minutes to Amherst Station  
(as it called) where I find every body glad  
to see me & welcome my return.

I will now give you the news some  
of which will surprise - I shall go to Illinois  
in May Dr. Jenkins accompanies me for  
the purpose of settling there & go to farming  
upon an estate of own - I to furnish the  
land & means & divide the profits with him  
& he to act as my agent in the management  
of my lands in that state - How it may  
suit I do not know - He is anxious for  
such an arrangement - & I have decided  
to try it.

The other piece of news is that

Aurelia Tumberlake is to marry the Epis-  
copal Clergyman in Paris - a decent young  
man - the only objection to him - is that  
he has fits periodically - every 3 or 4 weeks  
But if she is satisfied - to take him for  
better or for worse - its all right.

In my last letter to you I informed  
- you that I proposed a trip to Pitts-  
-field & spending 2 or 3 days with you  
and your Brother at that place - I  
shall reach Pittsfield Sunday accidently  
on the last Saturday of this month  
I have so informed your Brother - to  
inform by the way - I have committed  
the means of paying your way for  
the next term and to furnish you some  
ready cash - which you must begin to  
need - as you have spent very freely  
this summer I have made to your Brother  
out of abundant caution - Should any thing  
occur to prevent my being at Pittsfield  
at these proposed times - I shall return  
home to Morrow or next day - when and  
when I hope to hear from you.

I hope you will have a pleasant trip  
to Cambridge - you will find Mrs Sparks  
a charming Lady - Present me kindly to  
to your young friends -  
Your devoted Father  
H. S. Thoreau

P.S. Inform me when your vacation commences  
The probability is that you join your Cousin  
Marquis Hunt & spend the vacation with her  
in travel & on the Sea Shore - She is anxious  
to have you join her & we have partially  
informed your Mother goes with Chase  
into the Mountains of N.H. during his vaca-  
tion for health & study - Our trip - unless  
I have a short business trip to N.Y. - will be in  
all probability deferred

H.S.D.

Saturday May 27<sup>th</sup> 1855

My beloved Daughter

Upon my return home from Bedford  
on Friday evening I found your letter at hand - offer-  
ing as to and how does the highest pleasure and  
qualification to her from one to whom we are  
so devoted and about whom we feel so much of  
anxiety & hopes - anxiety my dear Daughter for  
your perfect health & well being - and hope  
that you will by your judicious application win  
in the school that high standing & position which  
is the reward of true merit & scholarship - Be not  
contented with a position of "so so" of mediocrity  
of a dragging along - Be ambitious of distinction  
and high merit - to accomplish which you  
must study and toil & labor - Treasury but in ac-  
=chieving the honors & rewards of the school - but  
never jeopardise <sup>ing</sup> your health - by omitting  
proper daily exercise & recreation, cultivate  
the physical as well as the mental powers  
and above <sup>all</sup> correct a most horrible stoop  
& droop of the shoulders - I was sorry & grieved  
to find you falling into this my dear Daughter  
you must particularly attend to - Hold yourself  
erect - walk erect, sit erect, stand erect - If  
you only know what an improvement it was

I am sure you would be attentive to the course  
= tone of so ungraceful so ill looking a letter  
sustaining not even an old friend but then, much  
less a young Miss. in her teens

I was not surprised to hear of the change of  
feeling of Henry Lafont towards you - It is what  
is almost universal in poor frail humanity - If you wish  
to make an enemy - place the party under obligations  
3 or 4 times you have a finer face - a conscious  
ness of this & a recollection that she had wrong-  
ed, <sup>you</sup> are sufficient to awaken her enmity - It  
should teach you a lesson of caution through  
life - Never bestow your confidence except  
upon ~~one~~ <sup>one</sup> ~~person~~ <sup>person</sup> & most certainly require  
trust - with the character high integrity - and  
unsullied honor & truth of your friend - only such  
are safe - I have no doubt that your confidence  
has been betrayed in a certain matter - about  
~~some~~ <sup>some</sup> of your Brother's affair touching a  
certain party here & a certain letter - I can in  
no way else account for Henry Reed's change of  
disposition - which has surprised me not a  
little - have my daughters about all this  
business - I have one suggestion to make  
about ~~this matter~~ <sup>the</sup> changed disposition of  
these young Ladies - treat them politely, but  
withhold your confidence & intimacy - Feel a  
proper pride & ~~self~~ <sup>self</sup> respect to keep

you from visiting their room - unless those visits  
are returned - let your intercourse be conversational  
never not intimate - For any change in your  
relations with them the fault is theirs not yours  
keep them in the position they have selected  
make no sacrifice of your independence  
& proper self respect to propitiate ~~them~~  
~~even~~ <sup>even</sup> their favor or conciliate their hos-  
tility - It is not improbable that Henry Reed is  
the dupes of some artful tale told here, myself  
to blame in some measure for this - For Dr. G. has  
put me on my guard and advised that you should  
not come with her - that she was from temper  
& disposition - not a suitable companion - He went  
as far as he should to put me on my guard - and  
I should have taken and acted upon the hint, but  
it is now too late - but whatever your future re-  
lations through life with <sup>her</sup> may be - say nothing  
about her - never speak of her treatment to you  
but treat her with civility & politeness when  
it comes in the way - But never with intimacy or  
close friendships - The change is one of her own  
election & choice & you act accordingly

Keep your own secrets - & show this letter to none  
Be cautious in all things - do not say nothing to  
widens the breach & go on the ever tenor of  
your way - All well & send you much love

Your devoted Father  
H. J. Dineen

Leipzig the July 4<sup>th</sup> 1852

My Dear Daughter

Upon this the 79<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our  
National Independence - a day of public rejoic-  
ing - and gratitude to the great Ruler of all things  
for this wonderful dispensation of his mercy &  
blessing in the creation of a great Republic  
which has, and is destined to exert over the affairs  
of mankind so marked & decisive an influence  
(for good & hope) I have as one mode of spending  
the day - most agreeable to me - sit down for  
the purpose of holding converse with an  
absent and beloved Daughter.

You have not very long been yet in-  
formed me of the time when your school is  
out, and you commence your vacation, this  
I desire to know immediately - that arrange-  
ments may be made for your spending your  
vacation - As I find upon going to Louisville the  
other day the movements of Dr Flint & lady are  
too uncertain to be relied upon - They are en-  
gaged in building an addition to their house  
Have not decided when they will go and how  
long they will stay - speak them of a flying visit  
& your Cousin Annie says she prefers to go  
to Bourbon & spend her time in preference

to a short trip - So that I concluded that there  
was too much of uncertainty in their movements  
to rely upon - before this state of case & as we  
were not going on this summer - I have thought  
it probably more agreeable to you to spend  
your vacation at home idly - and if so I  
would either come on for you on some  
favorable opportunity, might offer that you  
could come out - Mr. Hurd's - will be in  
Pittsfield some time after the middle of  
this month - spend some weeks or ten days  
with his parents and return home - He said to  
me that he would be delighted to accompany  
you out & see you safely home - Now if  
his movements should suit the time for closing  
your session - it will be a most eligible op-  
portunity to come out if you wish to do so &  
save the necessity of my coming on for that  
purpose - My trip to N. Y. is delayed in  
consequence of the decline in the price of  
sheep cattle, as I expected before - this to  
have started on about 200 head - preferring  
to keep them in my own pastures & await  
an improvement in price, he has delayed  
my proposed trip

Now in view of the uncertainty of Mr.  
Hurd's movements - Had you not better come  
on home & spend your vacation - Does Mrs.

Lafayette return home or not - If so would this  
be an agreeable opportunity or not - to return  
home - Let me hear from you as soon as  
possible - When your session is out, would you  
like to visit home? Which of the plans proposed  
would be most agreeable to you?

You speak in your letter of Mrs. Lafour's lady  
like behavior to you - Her kindness & of improve-  
ed bearing of the daughter - Have you ever  
found out what was the matter with Reed - Has  
she changed in her manner or not - Be govern-  
ed strictly in your intercourse by their bearing  
act with a proper spirit of independence  
and the courtesy of the lady.

There is some cholera in Lexington some  
8 or 10 deaths - no acquaintances - principally  
among laborers - and due mainly to some  
imprudence - There is no fear from it - I hope  
it will soon pass by

I wrote a letter to Henry Ann some days  
ago - and hope soon to receive another  
of her most agreeable epistles - my love &  
a kiss for her

Laura has returned home - near the de-  
teriorated - not half as smart as when she  
left home - Your Mother is cured by this ex-  
periment - she will send there no more - Regrets  
all well with much love - Your devoted Father  
to you  
H. Thorne

Lexington Nov 24<sup>th</sup> 1852

My dear Henry.

I read last week - when on the eve  
of a trip to Louisville - upon the vexatious business  
of Timberlake - your agreeable letter - I was  
greatly surprised at your application for more  
money when I left you I supposed enough for  
the term - You are not again loaning out I  
hope - How do you get rid of it? making liberal  
contributions to buy plate for retreating teachers  
By the By - I think Mr Richard has acted badly  
- after engaging for the term - to thus abruptly  
quit - without due & sufficient notice - \$20 - He  
was undeserving the compliment you have made  
him - I have tried my daughter to impress upon  
you the importance of taking better care of  
your money - but without success I fear - I enclose  
close you a check for 20\$ made payable to  
your order - you must write your name on  
the back of it - If your brother is in Pilesfield  
he will attend to it for you and have it cashed  
if he is absent get Dr Agnew to get it changed  
for you & get it in gold - I am unwell and  
write you in short lines only - let me exhort  
you to quit your extravagance & use more care  
only in your expenditures

Yr devoted Father  
H. J. Doremus



Lexington Nov 28<sup>th</sup> 1855

My Dear Daughter

You will see by the dating of this letter, I did not go on with the Dr & Miss Maria & I think it very doubtful whether I shall go west this season - I am suffering from a violent cold and as the only cure I have this morning commenced taking a cold bath - which this cool weather is pretty severe - I feel much better after taking the first this morning - so much freshened up that I am writing you a letter I wrote you on Monday & enclosed you a check for \$20 on Bank of America - which I hope you will get to day & your Brother will have it cashed for you - In the letter I gave you a sort of hurried scolding about your extravagance I am sorry to hear you have substituted a German for Mr Richard as french teacher, this is perfectly shocking - your school must go down at this rate - your frequent change of teachers is a great disadvantage & I fear each change is for the worse - we must try some new arrangement - I fear - with the close of this term I have been disappointed in Dr Agnew's failure to form his classes for conversations in French as promised - unless things are for the better

a change must be made - I wish you to write me particularly of the general qualifications of Mrs Richard and Lady - beyond their French and Musick - I have some thought of opening a correspondence with him - about making an engagement with me - to come on here and open a small select school in my house How will it do? will he answer for the purpose? a school of some 10 or 12 - How do you like the Idea? If this or some thing like it - cannot be made to answer - your Mother will have to come on with Ell & Lilly - & settle in Cambridge or its neighbourhood - Keep this however all to yourself do not speak of it

I shall go to Bedford to day and spend until Saturday there - Mrs Rodes when I am away spends the nights at my house - as a sort of guard - very kind & obliging in him

The misses the Dr & Maria a good deal but will soon get accustomed to it - I have Ell & Lilly in the library at their books but it is hard to keep them at it - all the Churchers here unite to day (thanks giving) in the Baptist Church - I went to preach the sermon - All yours in much love and many kisses to you

Your Devoted Father  
H. L. Duncan

Lexington Dec 14<sup>th</sup> 1823

My Dear Daughter

Your ever welcome and affectionate letters to your Mother & myself since your thanks giving has been received, and gave us great satisfaction and pleasure.

Your account of the change again of your French teacher impresses me most forcibly that your School is in a state of dilapidation & it is to me most strange that a French teacher of the first order cannot be got in N.Y. I know they are to be had. If so at present it is only from the price, and if he does not like the school, will rapidly decline. The more I think of <sup>the</sup> the more I am satisfied that you should leave at the close of the present term - and seek some other school - there must be in the vicinity of Boston some much more desirable School - and we must look out - It is high time my dear Daughter that you should be impressed with the high importance of most diligently & studiously preparing forward in your education - the time will arrive when you are to take your position as a young Lady in Society - and to do so, half educated, a mere smattering, will be a most mortifying evidence of mispent time - and

failure to improve, the great opportunities  
you have enjoyed with superior natural  
talents - such a misapplication of your time, you  
will always reproach yourself for such a  
failure on your part, to improve your many virtues  
- I beg to let me exhort you to greater diligence and  
study - lay aside the levity and follies of the child  
for the dignity of character & manners - that he  
comes the young lady - now budding into wo-  
manhood - feel attributions of distinction in all  
that gives elevation character & position in your  
sex - I must now give you some account of  
a lady I met the other day who in point of  
beauty charm of manners & brilliancy of intellect  
I consider the first woman I ever  
saw - upon my return from Bedford - getting  
in the Cars at Coopers Station - on my return  
home - I saw a lady bowing to me and not  
recognizing her through her veil, I approached  
her and found it to be Mrs Henry Pollock  
of Mass - returning home - accompanied by her  
Mother Mr Sargent & a Brother - this was on  
Saturday evening - Sunday being a very cold &  
agreeable day - we did not call - On Monday  
morning I went in early & concluding that the  
badness of the weather might have detained her  
I called at the tavern and found she had  
not left - I found Mr Woolley with her

Soon Mrs Grafton & Mrs Weston called - and I think  
for 2 hours during my stay - I never have seen  
so agreeable witty & brilliant a woman as  
she is - Her resources seem inexhaustible - I regret  
ted her stay was so short - I have since seen Mrs  
Grafton & Weston and they regard her as the  
most elegant woman they ever saw - you  
will recollect when a bride - when she vis-  
ited us some 8 years ago - she was then young  
just 18 - she is now - matured - yet with all her  
charm of manner personal beauty & brilliancy  
of intellect - Her love of domesticity is a great  
draw back - It is this which detracts from her  
glitter she is all in all the most perfect woman  
I ever saw -

Let me know when your term closes  
for I must look out for three quarters for  
you - I incline to the Boston neighbourhood  
myself - when your brother comes home, we  
will talk to all over - In the mean time I  
shall write to Mr Sparks on the subject

Mr Jenkins from whom I hear frequently  
is well pleased with Illinois & he only has  
energy and industry enough will do very  
well - Your Mother recd from Maria her first  
letter yesterday - she is well - her social position  
is no doubt more agreeable to her in her eyes  
than here -  
all send you much love  
Your affectionate Father  
H. J. Demerit

went - I wish that it was at a season that  
you could be present - that it did not in  
terfere with the School of your Brother  
and yourself - It will be emphatically a great  
National occasion - In which every State of this  
wide spread Republic - will be represented.

Miss M. Sumner.

Miss Mary Sumner

Care of  
Mr. H. T. Sumner

Cambridge

Massachusetts

Mr. Jacob

Take care

Write as often as you can - give us long letters  
with every particular concerning you  
All yours in much love to yourself  
and Brother

Your devoted Father

H. T. Sumner

Take care of your health

I wrote to your Brother last Monday enclosed him a check  
for 2500 - I hope it came safely to hand

Lexington Jan 4<sup>th</sup> 1857

My Beloved Daughter

Your ever more welcome letter of  
the 30<sup>th</sup> Dec is at hand - How happy it makes us all  
to hear from <sup>you</sup> - Surely if you were aware of the  
great pleasure, it, gave us - we should be more for a  
- greatly gratified, with <sup>the</sup> most agreeable & sprightly af-  
- fusions of your pen - Allow me my dear Daughter  
to say to you, in all affection & tenderness - that your  
letters indicate a haste in their preparations, that  
you should avoid - You seem to write as if it were  
a task - This should not be - There is no accom-  
- plishment that should command more of your  
particular attention - than ease and grace of  
style in letter writing - Your resignation to the  
cultivation of the art of Composition has always  
surprised me - I again earnestly invoke your par-  
- ticular attention to this most important branch of  
- education - a beautiful and elegant style of com-  
- position is acquired only by the habit of frequently  
- writing - and when you write carefully - your hand  
- writing is improved - an art in which, I am sorry to  
- say, I do not observe that improvement I had ho-  
- - ped for - We I entreat you more particular  
- & careful in your hand writing

Since our return from Louisville where

we spent several agreeable days with our most agreeable and hospitable Cousin Mrs Ford. I have been much employed arranging for my daughter. I am reducing the force at Bedford & at home by hiring out some I shall sell and, disengage myself from this growing annoyance, as fast as I can & I hope during the present year to get rid of my Bedford property & prepare to place my affairs in a situation to be managed with less personal trouble & have more leisure and ease to wait upon my daughter a period I look to with anticipations the most agreeable.

I have just risen from the breakfast table 20 minutes after 10 o'clock (no improvement you see) to resume my letter. It is an extremely cold morning for our climate. Your Mother Ell & Silly are sitting around the fire. Have declined going to Church owing to the coldness of the morning & your letter is circulating around the circle created by all. Ell is at this moment reading which is at least half a dozen times for her. So you see what a real real pleasure (as Mrs Maria would say) to get one of your letters which surely should be to you great encouragement. To repeat them more frequently.

Lexington was never more quiet and still & I doubt whether we have much

excitement until the laying the corner stone of the Clay Monument. His next birth day, the 12<sup>th</sup> of April next - taken one hour Mr Ed Everett may be in sufficient health to deliver the oration. I doubt not if he does - It will be the most life like and true picture of the great Statesman, that has ever been drawn - It will be the largest and most brilliant pageant that has ever taken place in the West - The great bust, will be present. It will be the most brilliant occasion - and one of the noblest themes that ever commanded the powers of a great Orator - Mr Everett is equal to the occasion & the desire to hear him is very great & universal - say to Mr Sparks that I shall write him in due time to visit on this occasion - I shall expect both him & Mr Everett to see my guests upon the occasion - every house within 20 miles of Lexington will be thrown open to the great crowd of strangers, who will be in attendance - The grounds except the roads are expected to be occupied by the military from Maryland - The Washington guard - The season will be pleasant & they will occupy these grounds as a camp - The procession will be military as well as civic - Troops from every part of the States will be present - and all in all, it will be I doubt not, be the most brilliant assemblage that has taken place in



Mrs. Mary Stearns  
Care of W. W. Stearns

Cambridge  
Massachusetts

Lexington Jan 11<sup>th</sup> 1857

My Beloved Daughter

I received a day or two since your affectionate and most welcome letter - a great source of pleasure - mixed with pain to learn that you were low spirited and dejected at times - why is this? my dear child - what cause can exist to give you pain & dejection of mind - You should be as buoyant & gay as the young lark - without any thing to trouble you - Far with all your horror of compositions writing, ~~that~~ is indifferent - and I will not further press that subject upon you - as sincerely as I regard the determination of your mind - it is all wrong - your letters show the necessity of some such training - and if you will not write compositions you must write letters of love and with more care and attention, to hand writing spelling and diction - Cultivate an easy fluent and graceful style of letter writing - If you are aware of any cause of low spirits, you must frankly inform at least your mother and myself - Are your expectations unpleasant in any way? do you not agree with your room mate? or, are you tired of Cambridge - I love us my dear daughter, to may be

is our power to remove the cause in some way - If you wish to visit home do so with your brothers, though this letter may not reach you in time - If not inform me and I will come on for you - This low spirit of which you complain makes us anxious & we wish to alleviate it in some way - But let me exhort you to raise yourself & yield to no despairing make your books - your studies your companions & rise superior to difficulties real or imaginary - To have is your courage your resolution your energy - Amuse yourself be yourself again - let me have a cheerful letter from you - with the assurance that you rise yourself again - be worthy of yourself and rise superior to all little difficulties, real or imaginary

I wrote to James Leaking - a brother of the late an amiable and clever youth, to come on to help you the Normal School - that I would educate him - I wished him to qualify himself for life in the best to become a good Surveyor &c He will be a protection when I am from home - and qualify himself well for Survey in Illinois, he will be here in a week

We shall look for you Brothers in 3 or 4 days - all send your much love and many kisses  
Your devoted Father  
H. L. Duncan





Mrs Hart Gibson

Tigerville

Care of  
J Gibson Esq

La

make accounts, but pay as you go  
and when you have not the hand  
~~on hand~~ and it is perfectly convenient to  
spare the means to pay - learn  
to do without & to practice self  
denial & when you indulge, you  
should feel that it was perfectly  
convenient to spare it - before  
you should desire to indulge

Some attention to this rule  
will go far in a few years to place  
you in a situation of great in-  
dependence

I wish to know - for I believe  
I forgot to make the enquiry of  
Aert - whether his new improve-  
ments were now such as to afford  
suitable & healthy accommodations  
for the proposed increase of force  
For unacclimated slaves should be  
particularly cared for & not ex-  
posed the first season

The Slaves I propose to give

Severington Jan 2<sup>nd</sup> 1859

My Dear Daughter

Your charming and affec-  
tional letter of the 18<sup>th</sup> Dec duly  
came to hand - also the letters you  
refer to, from Mr Gallow & Hart, both  
of which have been answered

The weather <sup>is</sup> continues intensely  
cold - I did not take the Cars this  
morning for Paris in consequence  
of the severity of the weather - It is  
too cold to day, for the hands to work  
out - making fires & remaining in  
the house & making ourselves as com-  
fortable as possible, is all we  
can do - You are fortunate in having  
escaped to -

In a trip to Paris a few days  
ago, I met your friend Miss Bimont  
of Hellenburg - She bid me to say  
to you, that she was about to follow  
you

your example - would be married  
in two weeks to a young gentleman  
she made a conquest of, when she  
was in Niagara - He hails from  
Independence in that state - His  
name I have forgotten - But it is  
a very odd one - She refers with  
evident pleasure, to your trip to  
St Louis together - Speaks of her  
great amusement & astonishment  
at the marvellous change <sup>in</sup>  
the Rev Mr Willie - that has paid  
on the Canonicals, has taken her  
perfectly by surprise

In reference to the residence  
in Woodford - for a time - I think  
best - whether it will be as agree-  
= able in Versailles, as I would at  
Scotland I doubt very much - upon  
the form Mr Gibson will have his  
chief occupation - and there I am  
sure you will have many to in-  
= terest you, than you probably can

in the village - I would prefer these  
temporary & plain improvements - so  
that they were reasonably comfort-  
= able to a residence in Versailles

One thing my dear Daughter I  
wish to impress upon you, while  
young & in the beginning of life  
It is the habit of self control &  
to learn to accommodate yourself  
to things as they are - to live within  
= in your means & endeavour by  
your united exertions to improve  
your fortunes - by the practice of  
= a judicious & sensible economy &  
avoid all those extravagant in-  
= dulgences - which too often lead  
(even under the most auspicious  
circumstances) the young & unexpe-  
= rienced - If not to ruin - to a situation  
of embarrassment

One of the best rules - that I know  
of, by which we should govern  
ourselves in life - Is never to make

It may defer to a few days - so  
my dear daughter - you must  
make yourself at home & be  
contented until you see us

With affectionate regards to  
Aunt & Willie

I remain

As devotedly yours

A. T. Demaree

Dec 12<sup>th</sup> 1890

My dear daughter

I wrote to Demaree  
last week a hasty letter from  
Chicago - His letter to me, and  
one from yourself, is all we have  
received from home

We returned day before yesterday  
Saturday from Chicago - where we  
spent last week - with much com-  
fort in the Fremont House - altho  
the weather was very variable  
alternating between sun shine &  
storm & very blustering - not how-  
ever sufficient to keep your  
mother Lily & Anna Berkeley  
from going out every day - We  
saw much of Anna - She seemed  
very glad to see us - and was with  
us every day I think - to bid us

is as bright & cheerful as ever - full of fun  
that wonderful city - all are  
pleased and astonished - though I  
think not ready to exchange Lex-  
ington for Chicago - which I  
should like - They have been great-  
ly astonished at the magnificent  
Marble palaces for business  
houses which have sprung up here  
every where

We find our visit to Henry &  
Lily's perfectly delightful - Lily is  
a trump - their house is perfectly  
comfortable - and find this bad  
and wintry weather perfectly dis-  
lightful - To day the ground is  
covered with snow - and it is still  
sharp winter - But we hope soon  
for spring - which will be most  
acceptable - when we shall have  
this delightful & hospitable home

In my letter to Dincaan last  
week - I thought we should re-  
turn to Lexington, the last of

this week - But the bad weather  
having interfered - ~~the~~ getting my  
business all so finished up that I  
shall not have to return for  
some time to Illinois - My ideas  
of the future of this state is fully  
confirmed by this visit - that it will  
be the second state in the union  
in 10 years, in population & wealth  
& <sup>in</sup> become the empires state  
Every thing here is onward

I hope you and the dear chil-  
dren - are all well & enjoy your-  
selves - You must get every thing  
you want, to make you comfortable  
kiss the dear children for us all  
and give to dear Dincaan - <sup>eye</sup>  
all the fresh air that it <sup>will</sup> ~~be~~  
Much love & many kisses for Ellen  
& children -

If the weather allows, we shall  
be at home next week - But should  
Lily decide to come in with  
us



Mrs Mary A Gibson  
Box 73  
Lexington Ky

Mother & I have decided that  
little Lily is decidedly the  
Beauty of the ~~family~~ Ello three  
daughters - Some say she is like  
Saint Mary - But I think her  
an improvement

We have heard nothing from  
home since letter from Lily &  
2 from Henry - Tell Dimean to  
write me, we have more than  
since wished that <sup>he</sup> was with  
us - Tell him that on Saturday  
morning a sharp frosty morning  
the fence around the house  
& trees & ground were filled  
with grouse - which he could  
of shot from the porch

Mellie spent a day or two in  
Chicago - visited Mrs. ~~Shim~~ ~~Shree~~  
houses - and found all his father's  
papers - secure & uninjured -  
much love & a kiss for all

Breese Land Oct 23<sup>rd</sup> 71

My Dear Daughter

Here we are, all  
well & feeling entirely at home -  
Ell has a charming home - Every  
thing comfortable & convenient  
and is herself a model hostess - we  
live delightfully - The season is  
perfectly lovely - Every thing  
bright & cheerful around - Books  
& novels in abundance - with an  
occasional Pops - not oftener  
than 2 or 3 a week - bilious  
put offees & put Masters - a  
shocking neglect some where  
But for an occasional paper  
from St Louis or Chicago, we  
should be "behind the times,"  
Again Mother & myself, both  
have become Novel readers  
again - all that is needed  
to keep us - perfectly contented

is your bright & cheerful face

Every thing here  
bears the busy-bustling &  
sten of industry & work - from  
Morn to night - This is the  
season for the payment of  
cents - The tenants are active  
and busy in shucking and  
hauling their "Rent corn", for  
weighing & delivery - which they  
pay up fully - all anxious to  
improve the opportunity of  
fine weather to finish - In  
ten days more they will fin-  
ish - What is most remarkable  
is that the tenants singly  
shuck and haul an average  
60 bushels a day - hauling from  
1 to 2½ miles each per day  
without assistance - Each man  
seems to task himself to shuck

and haul 60 bushels per day  
to think of it that we in Ky  
must have 3 or 4 negroes - to help  
haul & cook the same amount  
in Ky - and that in a few days  
the business of the place will  
be closed for this season  
Willie sold on Saturday 5000 Bush  
at 33 cents per 13 - or \$1.65 - per  
Barnel - This heavy product  
is received without farming  
fuss or annoyance - Contracts  
for the coming season is I  
think completed - increasing  
the cultivation 400 acres ad-  
ditional to producing over  
26000 Bushels - It will not take  
many years under this system to  
realize a handsome fortune  
all that is needful is to take care  
of it - not waste in extravagance  
and folly





Mrs Mary D Gibson

Fayetteville

Terre Haute

Louisiana

is republished a letter to his  
eldest son who was then in the  
Military Academy at West  
Point - This is the most charming  
letter I have ever read the Chris-  
tian spirit & purity of thought  
was never surpassed - I hope he has  
received it - Tell him this letter  
he must read every day - It cannot be too deeply  
impressed upon his youthful mind  
He must read often this sketch  
of the life of Genl Lee - take  
good care of the paper & never  
fail to read the letter to his son  
next to the Bible - stands this  
great letter - Its noble teachings  
are seen inspired

I forwarded to Mrs Humphrey 4  
copies of the weekly Prep - con-  
taining the article she wished - I  
shall retain a copy for each of  
her children - also for each of  
yours & one for little Claud I  
think is his name

P.S. - Pay your credit and come on  
immediately - I have heard of a su-  
perior Nurse in Lanesville - I have  
ordered <sup>her</sup> to be engaged - you have  
always had sorry ones - to worry you  
come in haste - Do not tarry and no  
more longer than is absolutely necessary  
touch and repay <sup>for</sup> all  
Ley Apl 2<sup>nd</sup> 1872

My Dear Daughter

Yours of the 25<sup>th</sup> March  
I received on yesterday - I see by  
it, <sup>you</sup> are delaying starting to thy in-  
your former letter you fixed the  
1<sup>st</sup> of Apl - now it is the middle  
of the month - leaving us in uncer-  
tainty and doubt - Start the first  
moment you can - Ellen has  
left this morning - escorted by Mr  
Boorhes son & your Mother and  
Lily as far as Circumstances - where  
they stop a little & return  
home to Morrow evening  
your Cousin Mary Harding will  
go to Paris in evening train and  
meet them - There is <sup>their</sup> return

while there we shall visit  
Sunt Mary Ann & Mrs Bellard  
I think I wrote you of our  
great astonishment since Maria  
death - to find that she was an  
heir - being the owner of six  
shares of Bank stock & all the  
times was a beggar, she has been  
used to any house - she importuned  
me to loan her two dollars to  
pay her passage from Paris &  
back - I said to Maria - I cannot  
unless you mortgage to me your  
calp - then she showed some  
emotion & I stopped teasing her  
& handed her a 2 dollar bill  
she brightened up & left cheerful  
She was a great actor - she could  
put on and put off all sorts  
of emotion at pleasure - she was  
an expert in the art of begging  
all together - the oddest com-

found I ever saw - severe & true  
sly - deep at pleasure - The most  
perfect miser I ever saw - The  
greatest amount of old trumpery  
& rags - old News Paper - old alms  
ricks trash of all sorts - by the  
box full - with an abundance  
of fine clothes - with 14 or 15 uncut  
new dress patterns - new shoes  
never worn stockings &c &c - No  
rational solution of all this has  
been reached

I sent to Duncan by the mail  
yesterday a copy of The Dollar  
weekly press - containing the  
most interesting sketch of Genl  
Lees I have met - taken from  
Blackwoods Magazine - It is the  
first European notice I have  
seen of him - It shows a thorough  
appreciation of his qualities as  
a great Captain - In the article

Your directions about your horse  
 I shall attend to - though I am  
 a little doubtful about getting  
 your price - there is one great  
 fault the horse has - it is imp-  
 ossible to keep him in flesh - he  
 is a raw boned animal - that so  
 soon as you can put a little flesh  
 on him - when used runs it off, But  
 if I can sell, I will do <sup>50</sup> not for  
 less than <sup>you</sup> fix as your price - But  
 all this is unnecessary & should  
 not detain you ~~as~~ in your  
 movement home - surely you can  
 raise enough for that pur-  
 -pose of meeting your expenses  
 home - and not worry yourself with  
 any thing - Come straight to my  
 house & make yourself conten-  
 ted - never mind Lily's debt - I will  
see that she will not press you  
 my Dear Daughter - there is nothing

(6)

like a contented mind - permit  
nothing to worry you - I shall  
have to bring you under Martial  
laws - when you come up - and  
prevent you from running to Scot-  
-land too often - As you would  
be sure to fatigue & implore  
yourself too much to do, in the  
garden - When shall I start to  
meet you - say at Louisville  
but now I am confined by a  
bad cold and a fever & could not  
venture beyond the steps - They are  
laying over a mile a day upon the  
Big Sandy road - we shall soon  
be off to the White Sulphur - But  
early one of these days we will  
make the trip - I fancy I should  
like to build a cottage of an  
-ple dimensions for my house  
hold & spend <sup>the summer</sup> it in the mountains  
of Virginia - as far better than  
Europe or your keedom  
Your devoted Father  
W. H. Miller