that he had ten thousand
a year!!! So if once I have
occasion to mention him
again I shall call him
ten thousand a year. We
intend taking him to see some of
the young ladies this afternoon.
I shall write to you again on
Thursday next if Lily is then
quite well. I shall write on
Saturday. So by my silence (which
in this case will speak) you
will know that all is going
on well at home.

Now good bye my dear friend,
I hope you will have a safe
and pleasant journey and that
you will find every thing
agreeable on your arrival.
All send aream of love in which
they are joined by your friend
"Saint" Martha

between July & Sept 1858.

Duncannon
Tuesday 12 O'clock

My dear friend,

According to promise
I sit down to inform you of the
state of Lily's health, and am
happy to be able to report it as
much improved. She sat up
yesterday afternoon, played
with her dolls and looked
as happy as usual.
Ellen complains a little but
I hope that in a day or two

She will have quite recovered from her indisposition.
I am trying to imagine where you can be at this moment, at Ashtabula perhaps, whizzing along as fast as steam can carry you. And every whizz taking you farther away.
As you will naturally suppose, we all miss you very much indeed; I have already begun to count the weeks 'till you return and they seem interminable, but it is said of old time that he flies, and he does fly too fast for us poor mortals. Yet in this case I fear he will seem to go on "leaden wing."

Your old preceptor Dr. Marshall visited us yesterday on his way to Rock where he has to attend to some business, I do not know whether he intends returning to remain any time or not. The old Gentleman expressed great concern at not seeing you and regretted that circumstances prevented his coming here sooner.
I have no news to tell you except that we had a visit yesterday from your friend Miss Emma McCan, and the beautiful Miss Mary Waters, they brought with them a young Gentleman from St. Louis whose name I forget, but Miss Emma told Miss D. in confidence,

Aff Sister
Lily

Duncannon July 1st 58

My dear brother

It has been a long time since I wrote to you but the weather has been so hot I have hardly been able to do anything. I suppose Father and Sister Mary find it very warm on the cars, if she and Father are in Cambridge when this letter reaches you give them my love

and tell them that Father received their letters yesterday and yours also. I hope you are enjoying yourself now it would be very pleasent here if the weather was not so warm the apples are ripening and I hope they will be ripe by the time you return home. it will be a very short time now before you return, I shall be so glad then. Father said before he left home that you would be home about the 20 th. Aunt Mary Hall and Cousin Mary Ballard are here. Cousin Mary Ballard wrote to Sister Mary yesterday and directed it to "Hewitt and Co" New York.

We went with Miss Higgins to the exhibitions at Miss Jackson's and Mr Nevens' Schools; at the latter they sang the flower song and had a queen who was crowned with roses she looked very pretty. We did not get home from Miss Jackson's until twelve o, clock and from Mr Nevens' until eleven. I have no more news to tell you so I must conclude My letter. all send love to you in which they are joined by your

Duncan of the Junior Class is required, during the coming vacation, to study the Clouds of Aristophanes, and the first half of Book XIV. of the Annals of Tacitus. under an Instructor approved by the President; reciting three ~~times~~ hours a week, for four weeks, in each ~~class~~ study.

He is also to present to his Instructor for correction written Exercises in Greek; in Latin; in English; and Forensics. The Greek and Latin Exercises must be preserved and presented to the Professors or Tutors.

This paper, with the Instructor's certificate, shall be presented by the student to the President, on the first day of the following Term; and, upon receiving written authority from the President to be examined, he shall present this paper with the Instructor's certificate to the Examiners. Having been examined, he will be informed by the President whether he is, or is not, allowed to rejoin his Class.

G. M. Lane *Registrar of the Faculty.*

*Harvard College,* July 16 1858

This letter would have been given to Duncan in person, if my messenger could have found him; but he had left for home.

James Walker

Duncan, 1858.

*Certificate to be filled up and signed by the Instructor.*

This is to certify, that of the Class has, during the past vacation, studied

under my instruction; reciting times a week; that he has presented for correction written Exercises in Greek; in Latin; in English; and Forensics; and that he has in manner complied with the above requisitions.

Cambridge Aug. 7. 1858

Dear Sir

I found yours of the 1st on my table at my return from a short excursion.

The Faculty are dispersed; & I can give you no information as to the grounds of your rejection; neither have I any authority to modify them. At the same time I have no wish, & do not feel called upon to require you to return to Cambridge immediately. On the whole my advice would be to do what you can with the Latin, as you propose in your note, & to take the rest as an extra study after your return, running the risk of what the Faculty may do.

Very truly yours

James Walker

Mr H. J. Duncan

Louisville Agst 17th, 54

My dear young Cousin

I have often thought since your return that I would write to you to make us a visit before your return to Cambridge, But the thought seemed too selfish - for we have nothing to offer you here but - health & rest - in exchange for your cool shades - country dinner, fresh fruit &c, I wish very much to see you, & could you endure for a few days - these evils, in which we are in the midst, I should most heartily welcome you, Our young Ladies are scattered to the various

watering places, with the exception of one particular Star which is your vacinity, which I trust has not escaped your eye, midst all the agreeable surroundings of Lexington ---

When do you retire to the great Granite State? & how much longer are you to be there "in advance ville(?) when you graduate, I will claim as a right, an occasional visit from you -

I hope Mary was benefited by her Northern trip, Alice writes me that she look remarkably well. I suppose Ell & Alice are to day in Bomber - unhamled, in a delightful state of liberty! they will no doubt take advantage of the occasion to wear large Hoops the highest heels, & adopt many unfortiden airs & graces, Many a hearty laugh have I had when I look back upon my sitting out attempts, when at that age, when away from the "old folks at home".

Your Cousin Marie was very much pleased to meet you in N.Y. - they write me, that all of Mr Stephen Duncans family - except the famous Mrs Henry, are at N. Port & at the Belleview where they are

I took my pen this to write you a note, which has inadvertently run into a letter, a miserable thing written with a pen, which is like a long used tooth pick - I will relieve you - with kindest remembrances to all, not forgetting Miss Higgins -

Affectionately yours, M. J. H.

this is the most abominable pen that ever was used so put this sheet in the fire but the contents in your head

Duncannon
Sept 1st 1858

My very dear Son

With happiness and pleasure I write you that my dear Lily is restored to health, In company with Miss Clay, Miss Higgins, & her Sisters M. & Ella. Lily went in the wagon to the examination of Mr Venable's school, The afternoon of the day you left Dr Marshall came to see us he was on his way to Yorck to Presbytery, he has promised to come & see us after its close He regretted very much that he did not see you, poor Man! the death of his daughter & melancholy end of his grandson was a great trouble to him, still he looks remarkably well & steps about quite actively I have rec^d your note from Cin. & will attend to the cane, I had not observed that it was left, owing to my attention to Lily, & company to the house, Miss Clay will be here several days, & Miss Annie Brand is expected

to pass some time here also,
Mary & Annie are quite in the notion
of passing New-year with Mrs Webb
in St Louis, Mrs Shackelford will
be here next monday to make us a
visit, & she will also insist upon Mrs
going to see her, & I do not ~~not~~ see
any reasonable objection why she should
not go, it would be a charming visit for
her, but your father will object to the
arrangement because he nor I can go
it is too bad! Ellen is still com-
plaining of her throat but I trust
that it will soon be well, so that
they can resume their studies,
Now my dear Son let me beg of you
to apply yourself to your college
duties, & close with your Alma
Mater with honor & credit. Let
not the tricks of the college make
any part of your conduct, do not
that which would cause reproach
or cause the blush of shame for
one moment to tinge your cheek
And one thing more let me beseech
you to remember your Creator in the
days of your youth. To seek the
"One thing needful" Let the Sacred
volume occupy a daily portion of time
be assured such time will not be
attended with future regrets, only
that you did not pay more attention
to it. I trust that you will allow
that such claims & obligations are just
& reasonable, & that you will not be
so irrational as to disregard them.
Take wisdom for your guide. I
hope you will find all your friends
well & glad to see you, you will
no doubt have much talk with
friends the Sparks' after their
European travel. Present our very
kindest regards to them, also to
Mr Warren & Gillespie, All join
in much love to you my very dearest son
God bless you is the prayer of your
ever affectionate
Mother

You left one of your neck
ties black with red spots
I will send it if you desire it
in a letter, I forgot to give you my
plate for visiting cards

possessed of and it now
only remains for me to say
that we are all in good health.
Your humble Servants are
Still shewing signs of your having
made your presence felt, and
in lovely hues of green & yellow
stands out in bold relief the
fact, that to one member of
this household you have
given striking proofs of your
affection.

Having fulfilled my promise to
the letter of the law by dear
Mr. D. I shall now say adieu
until I hear from you. I am
aware that you have a great
deal to occupy you in College
and out. perhaps more out

shall bring us a
letter from
Mr. Duncan (including gift of
dresses) that he shall be sent
to us. I thought the same
thing of the Dolls
& Little delicate Rose;
but after much healthier
than Sheely has for some
time & seems to feel late
effects.
We have been making Miss D. a visit,
& brought her out yesterday
to find the letter
Good Bye

Dear Tom my dear Mr. Duncan,
I take the pen to record
for your benefit the pleasing
intelligence that Lily is quite
well and walking about. The
Dolls & little delicate Rose,
but after much healthier
than Sheely has for some
time & seems to feel late
effects.
We have been making Miss D. a visit,
& brought her out yesterday
to find the letter
Good Bye

Thos. D. Hippisley
Your affn. Mother
Dec. 2nd 1868

And as I write I hear her lovely voice in the "Star Spangled Banner" with which she is entertaining Mr. John Brand & Mr. Pittman Alias Sen Thousand & Gene, who called upon us all this morning and finding that we had gone to an examination at the Seminary of Mrs. Venables, manifested their anxiety to see the ladies by following them to the School.

We yesterday took Mr. Pittman to see Miss Anna Brand, Miss Coley & Miss Ewing. He seems very much taken with the sweetness of one friend Annie. Miss Ewing inquired particularly after you and said that it was so bad you should be away returning to College just as she came to Lexington.

Mr. Clay requested me to say to you that he thanked you very much for securing his commission in Boston, which this was the message he gave me, but you will know whether I understood him aright or not.

We expect Miss Anna Brand, with Mr. Monroe & Mr. Wm. Buchanan to dress this evening. I wish you could be here.

I believe I have exhausted all the intelligence I am

being no Mr. Snow to interrupt the harmony all went off very pleasantly.

The fair takes place next week. I don't intend to go even one day. but I suppose I shall hear all the news and shall write it to you if worth telling.

Your father shewed the Northern horses at Winchester & Paris, at the former place they took the certificate at the latter nothing. I think they have a prejudice to Northern Animals of all kinds possibly they thought the horses may be Abolitionists.

Write whenever you feel inclined or at least give your replies quite at your convenience & shall stand on ceremony but shall write when I have anything to tell.

Lyn Ct 12th - 1858

My dear Mrs. D.

I did not intend replying to your pleasant letter of the 6th until I could gather sufficient gossip to make it repay perusing but having heard this morning at breakfast that no one had written to you this week I thought that a line were it only to say that we are all in the land of the living and likely to continue there, would be acceptable.

Our village is very gay just now, Strauss' band from Louisville has arrived and its arrival seems to be the signal for doing up all the parties of the season.

First on the list this week comes Mr. George Beavis at which some charming Miss Lily looked irresistible tho' Miss Mary Eaton was said to be the beauty of the evening.

Affair the second Mr. Wolleys.
Your father & mother attended the above and report it as the most elegant thing of the season, the ladies (married as well as single) seemed determined to astonish each other and in robes of pink satin, white brocade, feather diamonds, &c &c, formed a galaxy of beauty rarely if ever equalled at this side of the Alleghanys.
The programme for next week as far as made known is as follows.
Miss Morgan's a grand affair, Monday
Mr. Jas. B. Clay Wednesday —
It is conjectured that as this is Miss Morgan's first attempt it will eclipse all that has preceded or that will succeed it. Something to be remembered in the dim future by the oldest inhabitant.
Report says that Mr. Rosa and your friend Mr. McC. perhaps

astonishing the natives also. But this is uncertain.
The Jacob family have returned from Europe. I saw Miss Lucy at church on Sunday. She has grown much shorter and about three shades darker than when I saw her in Cambridge. She made her debut at Mr. Brandis, and in her dress reminded Miss D. of our friend Mr. Spaeth, & thought it would be wise of Miss D. not to suggest that to Miss Lucy.
I was delighted to hear that your dear haired friend is as interesting as usual. I know that the society of a dear friend can cure every form of the blues.
You must not take advantage of my mentioning in this connection that Mr. Penny spent Tuesday evening with us. He sang, played and was very entertaining, and there

Lex Sept 14th 1858

My Dear Son

Your letters from Cin^ti and Cambridge I duly rec^d for which I thank you – I should have written earlier, but for the promise of Mrs Higgins & your Sister to write & keep you advised of all things – I am happy to inform you that Lily is returned to perfect health, and all one will want to black – I showed my horses at the Winchester & Paris fairs – got them beat – sent expressly – a combination of jockeys to defeat them reporting that they were 25 years old & such like horse slanders their being northern horses and the rascals thinking I ~~and~~ should have brought in sly & such like things –

Mary friend Miss Mary Reed arrived here with her Father on a visit to Mrs McKee – The meeting between her and Mary Duncan – was very cordial warm & affectionate, there will likely be some explanations – something Miss Reed's Father having alienated Miss Reed from Mary Duncan, of which you may have heard something – of these things you will be duly advised

You have not mentioned my dear Son any thing of your difficulty with the faculty or any explanation of Dr Walkers letter, what is your out of & what has been done with it, Have they imposed upon you any Constitutions or extra labor

The town is very gay – Your Mother & I attended a large and brilliant party at Mrs Brooks on Friday night, your Sister did not go, in consequence of a Sty upon her eye – To night a large party at Mrs Morgans, and on Friday next the ball of the Season at Mr Jas B Clays – for which the invitations are out a week in advance – Mrs Macalester & Mrs Claud Jackson follow in succession & so on

This is all the news of the town

All well & send you much love

Your devoted Father
A J Duncan

known before - Mary Lefore is evidently not at ease in Mary's Company - their is embarrassment & constraint - Reed is now on a visit out to Mrs Lefore - I suppose will be in for the Party to day at McLeans

You have nothing new of interest

Your devoted Father
W T Duncan

All send you much love
W T D

Leg Sept 24th 1858

My dear Son

Your affectionate & satisfactory letter of the 17th inst is at hand you refer to me the propriety of your purchasing the Eu Britannica in 21 vol at 95 Cents - There is no pressing necessity for the purchase of the work at present, It can be done hereafter as well, when it will be more convenient to pay "Park", "Spectator", & Scott, are sufficient for the present - The expenditures of the present year are very heavy - and I must recruit my finances - the low price of Beef this year has occasioned this - you know my Dear Son - that nothing would give me more pleasure, than to gratify you

But your own good sense will impress upon the propriety of the practice of some economy - at present, the collection of debts are very uncertain - the Creditors owe me some 4000 $ & as much due in Illinois upon land sales - But little likely hood of any collection from this source - the Stone & Short profits from Bedford - dividends & hire - alone to rely upon - So my dear Son - I feel and know that you will appreciate the considerations I suggest - and cheerfully act accordingly - you will recollect - my engage to the State this sum I borrowed last Feb that has to be provided for near 9000 $ - do not understand me that in your necessary Expences you are to stint yourself But live & dress as a gentleman It is of extraordinary expenditures I refer

This town is was never graced a large & magnificent ball but week at Ex VB Clays - It was a splendid affair - Tonight a grand affair comes off at McCrea's - The affair of Henry & Mrs Reed - I hope as you do will result in conviviality - Though Miss Lafon may prevent - who Henry thinks was the cause of alienation - I was Miss Reed's special gallant at Clays - She seemed quite pleased with our civilities - She sees here none of her Pittsfield acquaintances in Society except Henry, she will learn for herself something more of People than

Shew

most true my friend but is not some stratagem necessary to fill four sides of such large legal paper with absolutely no material to work upon? This granted I proceed. You have no doubt (in your researches into ancient heathen lore) met with an account of an old female who wept herself into stone, well! some of my friends are of opinion that I narrowly escaped laughing myself into the same unconscious material, which would certainly have been the result of my attending the performances of an Opera troupe, who made their appearance during the fair, and kept your amiable fellow citizens in nightly ecstasies at what they suppose (dear innocent souls) the superior charms of Operatic performances – The whole town are under the impression that they have seen a real live Opera.

---

Lexington Ky
Saturday Sept. 25th 58

Highly as a communication from you has been always appreciated by me, my dear young friend, that appreciation is now increased tenfold by the knowledge that each epistle was written in moments stolen from "literary labors" the vastness of which I estimate by the list of names given in your last, conveying as they do to my unlettered imagination the profundity of wisdom, in point of analysis, in – what shall I call it, alas! Shakespeare did not know what an absurdity he uttered when he asked what is in a name.

The Fair has been and that is about all I can tell you respecting it. I attended the last day (Friday) saw a number of beautiful horses and beautiful ladies – amongst the last mentioned animals was a Miss Hood who comes up to my idea of a perfectly

In places where not a sound was heard save religion or politics you will now hear discussed the relative merits of "Il Trovatore" and "La Fille du Regiment." This remarkable troupe availed themselves of the privilege given in the dear old rubrics in the prayer book which allow the chants to be said or sung, and where singing was impracticable – the reason which the deponent saith not, they gave out in the purest English and in good farce the various dialogues which occur in the course of the performances – As Bert Gibson says it nearly killed him, for I can never see it even in imagination without bursting out into uncontrollable fits of laughter.

handsome woman; Mr. Brank
seemed to be of my opinion if I
may judge from the fact of his leaving
her about, which he did, looking
as black as this earth clothing as any
other bear who attended Vanity Fair.
Miss Mary Lafon I think was the
most prettiest young lady on the
grounds; there is a refinement in her
beauty which pleases me very much
Your friend Miss Lily dined with us
I had not an opportunity of speaking
to her but I observed her movements
for the sake of a certain young friend
of mine; Mr. Speed Goodloe seemed
to be trying to do the elegant in his
way, it is to be hoped that his success,
it were a pity if such efforts did not
meet with success.

I suppose your father has told you
that Mr. Jas O Rassieur's son died
of yellow fever at N. Orleans about
two weeks since, I believe his name
was Richard he was the eldest son of
Mr. R.. A cousin to the deceased
gentleman a Mr. Rassieur from Tennessee
married a Miss Allen from Tennessee
on Wednesday evening last, and
Miss Emma McCann being one of the
bridesmaids gave a large party to
the bride on Thursday evening to which
I was invited but did not go. Your
father says it was a very pleasant
party, composed chiefly of strangers
tho', I suppose friends of the happy pair.

We have had a visit from your
cousins Mr. & Miss Taylor of Russellsburg
and Mr. & Mrs. Jennings, (I think this is
the name), they arrived on Thursday
and leave today. Miss Taylor is very
handsome and seems to be a very
interesting young lady.

Well what next? (You see I thought
about to exclaim), "that your Aunt
does excel in penning a fine
composition five words where one would do."

Excuse my writing this letter, remember it is
to your friend Mr. Rowe, all device that I
[illegible]

Lexington Sept 25th 1858

My Dear Son

Without any of your favors unanswered, I am about to close this Sabbath evening with a letter to one so much loved & for whom is felt such intense anxiety - For your eminent and complete success - first in the success of your College life - that you may close your course with decided character & honor - with a respectability in scholarship & personal consideration with your Class - which together will place you upon high ground - then when you shall ~~leave~~ depart from those ~~temple~~ sacred Halls of "Old Harvard" to take your position and rank among men - upon the great theatre of life - much my dear son depends upon yourself That you have capacity & character - for influential positions, I do not doubt - So that all depends upon your own energy & skill - to make your mark & name & influence among men - with a fixed determination on your part to control your destiny - you can accomplish your wishes I hope you have not abandoned your purpose of running for Chief marshall - What progress is making, if any in the movement? Success will be gratifying, very gratifying

Pa to Louisville your Sister Mary & my self - go to Louisville - She to spend some 2 weeks & I but 2 or 3 days - She will spend her time at Dr Flints Mrs Flint having invited her by letter to do so - and I have accepted an invitation to spend my time at Peggy Adams, a delightful place - So it seems that a separation is to take place with Cousin Matt. By a sort tacit consent, She will not repent her folly that she should slight her true friends, to wed Yet to those that are indifferent to her - is a folly at her time of life unaccountable "Woes betides" as old Pickles used to say we shall see

This place has been very gay and brilliant - in the last 2 weeks - Since the Party at Ex B Clays - One came off last thursday at McCalls - a very brilliant affair too much of a crowd for entire comfort Strauss band has generally discoursed the music - Miss Rud accompanied us to both parties - She seems much taken with this place & neighborhood

My Lexington folly has gone into training - She is reported by Bingaman as of rare promise & if no accident happens She will in all probability have a distinguished career upon the turf

Our frolicking colts are very promising we shall get from them several fast horses I think I shall dismiss Scott - He is lazy and needs too much watching & hunt me that suits better

Upon my return from Louisville I shall write regularly - And I hope you will not omit regularly to write - even if there should be some irregularity in your receipt of letters

Make to Mr & Mrs Sparks my kindest regards - with other enquiring friends

All send you much love

Your Devoted Father

S. T. Duncan

Duncannon
Sep 28th/58

My very dear Son

We are left all alone, & really it is quite lonely after so much company & going for the last month, Lexington has been very gay, several weeks before the Fair it commenced there being so many strangers from the south, also young ladies from Cin & Louisville They are daily leaving since the weather has been cool Yesterday afternoon (Monday) Your Father & Sister Mary left us for Louisville M intends passing several

all your knowledge & employ it to right purposes. I suppose you have much pleasure with your Old friends Mr & Mrs Sparks talking of their travels what they saw & heard &c present our kindregards to them, Lily says "give my love to dear buddie, & I will write very soon", Miss Wiggins has undertaken the correspondence of the house, & is a very interesting one, but I cannot let her have it all to herself even if mine should prove dull, You must possess yourself with patience, as life is made of various changes, I send you several paragraphs to read put them in conspicuous place that your eye will often fall on them, & your memory retain them

Goodby my dear Son God bless you, your ever affectionate mother

weeks with Dr Flint & see if he can't cure her eyes — when the carriage returned it brought the box with the lamp. for which accept my thanks, this morning I opened it & found all safe, I do not intend to set it in operation until you come home in vacation, a good deal of the oil ran out of the lamp, so I shall keep the balance or what remains for you, You will pardon me for not sending your cane, or saying any thing about it, It was well wrapped up directed & taken to the office, they asked me $1.50 for sending it so I did not send it, & your father said not, also, I hope you were not displeased in any way about it, but it does seem to me perfect extortion to ask so much for the carriage of a trifle, As a senior I hope that you are getting along to your satisfaction, & that you feel the position you occupy & resolved to do so that you will receive the credit & honor which you merit, all that we could wish or desire, The highest education is that which not only provides food for the pupil's memory, but training for his judgment, discipline for his affections, guidance for his conduct & objects for his faith, Oh May the Spirit of God pervade & influence

All present send
love to you

Duncannon
Oct 1st/58

My very dear Son

Your kind letter was recd yesterday afternoon, accept my thanks for it & also the lamp, I had determined to leave it until your return, as I do not understand its management. You mentioned the rich man's death, poor soul! Whilst he has left millions to ruin perhaps those to whom it is left — "What shall it profit a man if he gain the whole world & lose his own soul?" Let us all take heed to ourselves

By the grace of God we are all in the enjoyment of health & reason &c, &c Your father & sister M are in Louisville, the annual fair is now being held there; M went for medical treatment by Dr Flint when she reached Lou Dr F. had left the day previous for New Port to see Robert Ford who is very ill, he has some chronic disease It is really sad, I hope the means may be blessed to his recovery—

How often the admonition occurs, In health prepare for sickness & death, the terminator of all earthly pleasures & delights—

There is nothing new or important to communicate so I must conclude by wishing you great success in your course of studies & duties—

God bless you my dear Don & preserve you from evil—

Your affct Mother

Lexington Oct 4th 1858

My Dear Son

Upon my return home last evening from Louisville — where I accompanied your Sister & left her at Dr Flints — who is expected to return from N York, (where he had been summoned to see Robt Field) by to morrow — ~~and~~ She visits the Dr with the hope that he will have her eyes cured & I found your short letter to your Mother complaining that had not heard from home for some time how this is, I do not know — I have written you every week since I commenced writing & shall continue to do so my Dear Son without fail

I spent some days at Louisville pleasantly — the fair being on hand the day after our arrival

It is high time that he was snubbed — Mary's position and personal attractions — will command far better men — She promises a career of bullship, which I fear she too much fancies Hart Gibson has been very attentive recently & others — the indications are such, that I shall be rather annoyed — and I think she is rather disposed to encourage the crowd — I shall try & influence her to a course of great prudence & discretion This thing of smiling upon every fellow is to me very distasteful a love of admiration is a great misfortune for a young Lady

All well and send you much love

Yr Devoted Father

A. J. Duncan

Mrs Preston & her daughters Mary called upon your sister and engaged her to spend Friday evening with them — a large party was invited to meet Miss Dunean Strauss band was in requisition & a splendid party assembled — a magnificent Supper was spread and went off well — We kept it up until 4 o'clock in the morning the Prestons have been very kind & upon their returning to Lexington Mary & your Mother will have to dine & party there — Mrs Ford was very polite insisting that Mary should accept the use of her Carriage daily while there When I left she had had many calls & altogether the prospect of a pleasant time

I was a little annoyed by finding the deputy Superintendent down there — disposed to be very attentive & rather to push them — while I was there, he was cautious & shy — He called upon Mr & proposed to attend her to the Preston party — She declined saying that her Father would accompany her — This was right But upon my leaving, he will be less restrained — I wrote her to day giving her some good advice & advising her to decline his civilities — treat him with dignity & respectfully — But not to permit those attentions that were calculated to make one impression favoring his suit — He is a mere loafer & will never be any thing else — Very low minded & unambitious — profoundly worthless & good for Nothing — wants a home support — when he can hunt Coons & Idle away his life — and have his Idle family on him

had nothing to say but I thought you may like to hear from home and when ill it has often made me quite well to get a letter from home even from a stranger. I had a letter yesterday from Henry Clay. he has gone to the Wisconsin University at Madison. He writes in good spirits. He describes the city as being very romantically situated between two beautiful lakes. Says the Senior class which he has entered are all jolly good fellows and that the professors are all very fine &c &c.

Mr. Frank Waters has just

Lexington
Friday night
Oct 15, 1858

My dear Mr. Dodge

I heard from home that your mother had been sick, so I felt anxious to see Mr. Lotry & Miss Brooks to hope that there this gone had much better of that. Entirely I expected to give Mother days that when next she writes she means to tell you that you will have to come home. I hope you will do so as your vacation will be so much longer, and your being here will make Mercie Stuart still merrier.

I have just returned from

called and I have come to the end of my paper so I must close. Give my love to your mother & family & believe me

Yours truly
Mercie Stuart

Mr Lom Clay. where I saw your beloved "Dick". she enquired affectionately after you and received her love. Miss Lily Brand and her admirer Mr. Goodloe called this afternoon but we could not see them as Miss D and I were leaving for Mr. Clay's.

Your Sister M returned from Louisville Tuesday with Mrs Hunt who stayed here a day and then went on to Paris. Miss D had quite a pleasant visit. Miss Ewing had some company for her and Mr. Preston gave her a large party which your father attended and about which I suppose he has told you. Mr. Preston is appointed Minister to Spain and the family leave very soon for that country. he has rented his house to Dr. Robert Bush the brother-in-law of our friend Mrs Webb, so I suppose we shall occasionally see the light of his countenance. Lexington is quite dull just now, some gentlemen made an effort to enliven the gaiety of it by giving a party at one of the hotels, but I understand it was a failure for the ladies attending.

You must excuse the dullness of this note. I been when sitting down to write that I

Duncannon
Oct 19th 1858

My very dear son I am so sorry to hear of your in=disposition but hope ere this that you are relieved. Do take care of yourself & health, I should have written to you sooner but Ellen was suffering very much with her jaw day & night, she thought it was a tooth that had been filled & went to the Dentist & had it taken out, the filling & the nerve killed, but suffered still, antie she took

Concerning this blue religion you spoke of I should conclude it was not the true sort, go to Bible & learn there it is the true source, there no moroseness, but joy & happiness to its possessors how it would rejoice my heart to know that my dear son was a christian a truly pious man — your father rec'd a catelogue & did not seem pleased to find that you were in the latter division of the class, that you could have been first if you had made the effort — do not say any thing about it —

I may not like that Mother nor, for fear of hurting her feelings

medicine & yesterdy seemed
quite well indeed better
than she has for sometime
I do wish you could be here
for a little while to nurse
& get you well, M is
going to "a tea fight" at Mr
George Brands this evening
Lily B is staying with her
father at this time, as Mrs
B is on a visit to her friends
in Philadelphia, M's eyes
I think are something better
they are a great trouble to her
Robert Ford is better, the
Doctors are unable to decide
upon the diagnosis, as it is
an internal disease, he
& his wife are now in Louis-
ville, & will remain some
time as there is no abate-
ment of the yellow fever
at the South. I presume
that you have had a peep
at the comet through the
great telescope, it must
have been a grand sight
as it was quite so to the
naked eye, What do you
think? Lucy Jacob is to
be married next month
to a Mr Johnston, & M
is one of the brides
maids. isn't it too bad.
M will write to you
soon & let you hear all
the particulars — —

Duncannon Oct 22d
[1858]

My dear brother

it has been a long time since you left, I now sit down to write you a letter. In one of mothers letters I heard that you were sick I hope you are well by this time.

Miss Lucy Jacob is to be married next Thursday

We have all been invited and you also but I suppose Father has told you about it.

Sister Mary is going to wait on her and intends giving her a party on Friday, I wish you could be here. Miss Sarah Rhodes is to be married next week but I do not know on what day.

Sister Mary bought a large Newfoundland dog from Louisville last week his name is Captain, Miss Higgins likes him very much not so do I.

We all intend to go to Danville this fall to see cousin Mary Givens and cousin Georgiana Taylor We expect to go to Shaker town and hope to have a great deal of fun.

All join in love to you.

Your affectionate sister

Lily Duncan

heard - at first I supposed there was fire - but soon heard the negroes - crying out that some one was beating John to death - out of bed we all sprang - and proceeded to the lower gate - from which place the cries came - I only put on my shoes and without stopping - to make further preparations in my dress - armed myself with a shovel and proceeded as I supposed to battle Father armed himself with the Gun - and in one minute we were all at the Pond - Upon reaching there - we found John Taylor in the pond - upon getting out to shut the gate his horse started with the buggy to the

Duncannon.
Oct. 24th 1858.

I wish very much my dear brother you could have been with us night before last - I gave Mary Preston a "Bird Supper" - which every one seemed to enjoy very much - Mary B. Lillie B. Fosie C. remained all night, what a "Belle" you would have been had you been here. Tomorrow is Thanksgiving - of course we good people will

attend church in the morning - in the afternoon we shall have a select dinner party - at which the most distinguished personages - will be John C. Breckenridge Vice president of the United States of America - James B. Clay - Congressman - Col William Preston - Minister to Spain - and a few others whose fame has not extended abroad -

I received last evening a letter from my friend Lizzie Ridgway - which I have just answered - and I know now of no more agreeable duty, ~~than~~ pleasure, than to write to my dear brother who is so far from home and all who love him best on earth, yet who, though absent carries with him the "lengthening chain". I was surprised to find you took the joke in my last letter about writing so seriously - I thought you were old enough and skilled sufficiently in the ways of this world to discriminate between a joke and plain truth - you must not be so credulous - We are very anxious to have you return home Christmas and ~~remain~~ remain until next term - but father thinks it best you should not - It is too bad!!! We were near having a "serious accident" on last Sunday night. A short time after we had retired - cries of distress were

Oct. 24, '58

Pond - John jumped in to bring him back - but he was unable to do so - the horse buggy John and all - like Pharoah and his host - were enveloped in the flood - this occured at the deepest part - the horse was drowned and when we reached the scene of action John was standing in the buggy - water up to his waist crying Murder! help! &c - after some moments - he was extricated from a watery grave - how awfull! to think of it - if the accident had

occurred at a later hour of the night John would no doubt have perished — and to think where would his soul have gone — Alas! it would have been lost forever! forever! How much ought we all to think of death — and so ought we to live that, whenever death comes, we should be prepared for the great change.

With much love & many kisses from us all to you I remain your loving and devoted sister

Mary Duncan.

whole Assembly was a
belle of course but seeing
that some of my admirers
had been studying
astronomy through the
bottom of a glass, and
fearing that they seeing
double might peradventure
suppose me a Constellation
instead of a star of the
sixth magnitude. I retired
into private life returned
home and made a
journey to the land of
Nod before 10 o'clock.

Yours

Sat 3rd

Your Father sent for me
this morning that we
might as he said compare
notes. He describes the

Lexington
October 29th 58

My dear friend,

I have just received
yours of the 24th and must
begin this my reply by
telling you a piece of
your dear Pa's negligence
Two weeks since I heard
you were ill and wrote
you a dull uninteresting
little epistle to raise your
drooping spirits. On
Sunday morning last
just one week after I
wrote it to him he
produced it from his
pocket with a thousand
apologies. All of which
I refusted a punishment

which you will no
doubt think sufficiently
severe. I suppose you
have got it ere so endo
past the first.

Wat 2d

The whole neighbourhood
has been in commotion
for days past owing
to the announcement
that two weddings were
to take place on last
evening in the immediate
neighbourhood and two
more in the adjoining
counties - So you see
like the late revival
the mania is general.
I attended the wedding
of Miss Rhodes accompanied
by Ellen - All the other
members of the family
went to Ashland. They
quite surprised to find
so elegant an entertainment
at Miss R.'s - I expected
profusion but had no
idea that they would
go to the expence of having
every thing in such
style - it was as handsomely
arranged as it could
be in our largest cities.
I dressed up in my best
silk & trimmed "à la Mode"
and excited the astonishment
if not the admiration of the

you have something more important to attend to.

I am indebted to your politeness alone for the affection provided by you to my last note. Make all due allowance for this my friend as I am in a great hurry Miss D being calling to Hence to leave and I want this letter to go with him lest your Father should neglect sending it.

Oct. 29 '58

offers at Ashland are very fine. Miss Lucie looked charming. Her husband very happy. You are aware that I did not know Miss Lee. I see she has gone since Miss Irving was to be one of the bridesmaids but being ill her place was filled by the admired and admiring Miss Lily. to say she looked beautiful would be the express but faintly her appearance.

Your sister Mary looked very pretty. She wore a white tulle dress a long white veil

Give my love to Charles.

I shall write to Mr Jeffers & tell him of your sister's illness

and a wreath of hawthorn
round her head
All the bridesmaids
dressed in the same
manner so you ~~can~~
imagine to yourself
how Miss L. looked.
I took a drive with
her this afternoon and
gave her the message
you sent in a former
letter. She returned
it and enquired
how you did &c &c.
I suppose your father
will tell you all
about the wedding
when he writes.
Uncle Davy I heard
had his ideas elevated
as well as his head
and thought it hard
that your father
should kiss the
bride while he was
denied the privilege.
You need never
apologize for not
writing. I should
like to hear from
you often - but now

her - but that my eyes have been troubling me - very much lately - so that I have not written any for a long time

With much love to you from us all - I remain your affect - and devoted sister

Mary -

Duncannon.
Oct. 30th 1858.

My dear Brother

You will not wonder at my long silence - after a remark - you made to me and which I heard you repeat several times - "That you had not time to read so many long letters, and that you handed them to your Ehmm to read after you were a quarter through" So I thought I would have compassion upon you and your Ehmm - and not trouble you too often. I have concluded that I

have waited long enough - and hope you will not find my letter too long or so dry that you will be compelled to trouble your Chum to read ~~them~~ it for you.

I am glad to hear that you have entirely recovered from Neuralgia - You must take my remedy next time - Ipecac & calomel - five grains of each - as a pill taken every two hours and when you become sick drink hot - or rather warm water in abundance - and keep yourself covered up in bed so as not to take cold -

Ellen suffered with Neuralgia for two weeks thinking it would ache and at the expiration of that time I weighed her out a dose of medicine which cured her in one day - and she has not had an attack since. I presume you would like to hear something of Lucy's wedding - she wished very much you were here - as did all of us - She looked better than I ever saw her - father has told you I was bridesmaid - Lucy Johnson Darwin's sister - Mary Preston & Lily Brand - were the others -

I enjoyed my visit to Louisville very much - Mrs Preston gave me a party which was very pleasant - Mrs Ford says Mrs P— is courting me for you - that she would like to make a match between you and Mary P— and my friend "Dick" "Count" is married at last - I wish him much happiness - Give Mr & Mrs Sparks much love for me and tell Mrs Sparks I should have written to

My dear Henry.
We were sorry to lose the proposed visit from you and Lafe now that you will pass Thanksgiving day with us. I have been intending to write for some time but have not found a moment of leisure.
Trusting that you

will come to us I
am your sincere
friend
M. C. D. Silsbee

Salem -
Nov 6 - [1858]

Lexington Nov 6th 1858

My Dear Son

A letter of yours to myself, was rec'd and mislaid - while I was at Bedford last week - so that I did not read it - this from its reported contents was not an answer to my last - in relation to the Stallion Ethan Allen - I wished you through Mr Gardiner - to make some enquiry about - his owner - where he lived - at what price he could be purchased - His character as a foal getter - the promise of his colts on the trotting turf compared, with the get of any other horse &c &c to this letter I have as yet no answer -

All are well & send you much love - I spend a good deal of time at Bedford - my track is finished & we trot colts daily some are very promising - I shall spend more of my time there than I have ever done - my own interest makes it necessary

I wish you to go to my Taylor & have me a coat & vest - of heavy material & very dark mix - as I have a supply of heavy pants - I will not need them - The coat a business coat, for saddle & all out exposure - somewhat of the fashion of make of the summer traveling suit he made me & send me by express

Your devoted Father
N J Duncan

Mr Henry T. Duncan,
Cambridge

By politeness of Mr. Henry W. Fadde.

Salem, Nov. 7, '58

Dear Chum,

I dont think my Cold will allow me to come back before the End of this week. I hope you are comfortable and in good health, but greatly fear you have not heard the prayer bell every morning since I left or if you have heard it, have taken advantage of my absence to disregard its summons.

It was a great disappointment to me, not to be able to return to Cambridge on Saturday and I want very much to come back tomorrow, but it will not be possible.

Did Ned Hooper tell you about the gingerbread in my room? if not I am afraid it will be of little use to remind you that there is some there at your disposal.

My cold has been a tough one, indeed I may say is a tough one, for though it is a little better to-day, I cant hope to get rid of it before the end of the week. Lo, take pity on me, a poor exile from old Harvard and drop me a line during the week, as soon as you can after receiving this, for I want very much to hear how you survive my loss. Hm!

Give my love to all my friends who inquire for me, and if the O.K. meets tomorrow night, be sure ~~and~~ to think your part. You might hint to anybody who inquires particularly for me that I should be very glad to hear from them during the week.

Hooke is waiting for this, so I must close here, though I would like to fill the sheet.

Hoping you are well and happy I remain

Yr. aff. Chum

G.L.C.

Lexington Nov 7th 1858

My Dear Son

Your letter in answer to my last relating to the horse "Ethan Allen", I have rec'd since my letter to you on yesterday – The sum intimated by you $20,000 must be a mistake – No horse has ever sold in this country for any such price Lexington sold for $15000 – far beyond his value & Alexander will never see his owner again – though he stands at 100$ the season – No trotting horse can be stood at over 50$ successfully – & that is higher than any has ever stood here – If they truly price the horse at 20000$ they do not wish or expect to sell him – Yet when I find out the owner and his bearsharts – I will know – As a breeder their are other horses – I should suppose fully his equal – If not his equal on the turf – Yet for all practical purposes fully so – I should like to own the horse at a fair price – as his reputation is high & if he should live I could make something out of him at a fair price – If I cannot get him I must look out another – For fixed as I am for raising keeping & training horses – It is probably the best I can do with my lands – at any rate

better

than beef in N Y at 9 & 10 C – Any information you may get through Mr Gardner – upon the subject inform – I shall open a correspondence through the Editors of the Spirit of the Times N Y, on the subject

The party your sister had proposed for Lucy Jacob (altho the invitations were ready for delivery was post poned – In consequence of her husband's having made all his arrangements to start to the South the morning after his marriage – Mary then gave her a handsome present – a Silver cream Ewer a very handsome article

I am sorry to hear from you, that you are unable to take higher rank in your class – from the increased studies with which you are taxed – the want of rank is not such I trust as will interfere with your graduation

We have nothing new – all well and send you much love

Your devoted Father

N. T. Sweeney

We had company here Wednesday for Mr & Mrs Reil nephew & niece of Mrs McCalester the Misses Annie Betty & Lily Brand & Miss Clay were here some young gentlemen came out after tea the young ladies stayed all night the next morning Miss Higgins told the young ladies that she was going to write to you & wanted to know if they any messages to send you Miss Clay sent her love Miss Lily Brand said that there was a piece from Il Trovatore which when ever she sings she thinks of you & requested Miss H to be sure & tell you that she never goes to party without thinking of you. Miss Higgins desires her kind regards says she received your letter of the 4th & will answer it as soon as she has any thing to say.

All desire their love in which we joined by your

Affectionate Sister

Ellen

Duncannon Nov 15th 1858

My dear brother

I recieved your welcom letter yesterday afternoon.

You were mistaken in thinking that I was waiting for you to write but I have been very busy, hereafter I shall try to write once a fortnight at least.

You asked me how I get along with my studies they are all very interesting I like

the book we read very much It is the "Chemistry of common life" by Johnston, I like History very much but it is very hard for me to recollect the dates & geographical names however knowledge is the idol I worship but I am afraid that I am doomed never to be a scholar I should like to be with the young ladies you spoke of but I suppose that it is as well for me to be at home. In Miss Higgins' letter you said that you wished to hear about the wedding of Miss Lizzy Pacot now Mrs. Johnson She had four brides-maids Miss Johnson his sister, Miss Lily Brand, Miss Mary Preston and sister Mary, the brides-maids wore dresses of puffed Tulle the bride wore a brocade silk both bride and brides-maids wore veils sister got her dress torn all to pieces, every body was there & it was a very elegant entertainment the bride had a great many presents most of them silver. Lily was very much pleased with the eggcups which were lined with gold Miss Higgins and myself did not go because one of the Miss Rodes was married I wished to go to Miss Pacot's but did not because I had been to the Rodes' some time before and she asked Miss H and myself if we would come to her wedding when she got married of course we said yes and it took place the same night as Miss Pacot's so we were obliged to fulfil our promise the entertainment was handsomer than we expected we ~~it~~ was Mick Magoon were there and we about the only persons we knew we left about twelve o'clock.

Miss Higgins was very much distressed on receiving your last letter she thought you were angry as you did not begin or end with "Dear Sister" Nell joins in love to you.

I remain your affectionate
Sister Ellen

Duncannon December 19th 1858

My dear brother,

I received your welcome letter of the 15th yesterday & hasten to reply.

We are all very sorry to hear that you are sick & hope by the time you receive this you will be well I wish you would come home for I do not think the climate agrees with you Oh! I shall be so glad when you get through College.

You said that you wished to know what Arithmatic I used, I at first used Greenleaf but Miss Higgins thought Dodd better & I now see that I have got to Decimal fractions I should be farther but Miss Higgins decides & will not allow me to go on until I understand perfectly what I have been doing so that I hope I am sure, She finds it hard to make me understand sometimes but she goes over the explanation several times & tries to make me understand.

We had company here night before last but it being bad weather, very few of the ladies came, only Mrs Preston

McCalister & Morgan the Misses Clay Lily Brand Ellen Matthews & Mary Preston the young ladies stay all night the Preston family leave for Washington City the last of this week. Miss Mary Preston dislikes the idea of going very much & cries when ever any one speaks of it. Who is Miss C.? is she right? What does she look like? By the by I have heard nothing of the "fair haired Olivia" of late has she been eclipsed by Miss C.? Who is the Mr Dave Hammond that you spoke of? father thought it was the senator from Carolina. I forgot to tell you a good joke concerning generally & Miss Lily Brand, the other day Sister Mary asked Mrs McCalister why she & Miss Lily Brand had not been out afternoon Mrs McC said that she & Lily had wished to come out during the summer but while you were here they were prevented by certain reports & that the young ladies teased Lily about you & even went so far as to call her Mrs Duncan I suppose as naval when you have finished this you will say "good joke, good joke"

Thinking the subject weather of hansteer I should have said nothing about it had we not had several snow storms which is very remarkable here so very early in the season. Tomorrow will be Thanksgiving & we are to have several persons and have to dinner I suppose this will not interest you but as Lily says "it will do to fill up".

"Olivia" will be out in January & Miss Higgins is is delighted at the prospect father has selected an old widower for her Dr Eliot of Louisville who is very rich & handsome with the exception of an agreeable dickness of the eyes which defect he hides by wearing green spectacles.

The fine Newfoundland Dog which Sister bought from Louisville is very sick having unfortunately taken cold which settled in the form of rheumatism in his hind legs. She has lost one of her Poodles having taken it into her head that it had distemper & with the hope of curing it she fed it some liniment then sulphuric paregoric camphor after which it had fits to cure him she gave him chloroform which terminated his "probationary career"

to have a cheerful house of it — and I suppose when you get home — you will see the change & enjoy it with us

Last week I spent in Louisville & entered upon my Guardianship of Swin=
burlakes Children — When you come home I shall throw it upon you as giving me
some [illegible] of his [illegible] I [illegible] letter, [illegible]

=November, 1858=
(prior to 27th)

My Dear Son

I recd this week your two letters — In the first of which you request me to send you $100 by first of Dec — I have found my check upon Bank of America for $150 — 100$ of which fills your order the remaining fifty — will pay for my suit of winter clothes I ordered from my Taylor & leave you some ballance — The clothes have not yet come to hand — the weather is cold (we have winter on us) and I need them much I hope he has not sent to Louisville as he done before — But direct to Lexington If they are not off — hurry them — he will have a satisfactory specimen of your taste in them I hope — as you changed my Order & took the responsibility — All of which is very well — I doubt not I shall be pleased

[November, 1858]
(prior to 27th)

My Dear Son

I recd this week your two letters – In the first of which you request me to send you $100 by first of Dec – I have find my check upon Bank of America for $150 – 100$ of which fills your order the remaining fifty – will pay for my suit of winter clothes I ordered from my Taylor & leave you some balance – The clothes have not yet come to hand – the weather is cold (we have winter on us) and I need them much I hope he has not sent to Louisville as he done before – But direct to Lexington If they are not off – hurry them – he will have a satisfactory specimen of your taste in them I hope – as you changed my order & took the responsibility – all of which is very well – I doubt not I shall be pleased

[illegible] and her so dearly to meet
her friends – which she declined upon the ground
that she would spend but a short time here and
desired to spend all her time with her Father
while I was at Bedford this week Mary gave
a bird supper to Mr & Mrs Neal of Columbus,
the guests of Macalister – Mrs N being his
sister – Mary & Mrs Macalister have become
very cosy friends & the Misses Brands are very
intimate – Miss Reed dined with us the day
before she left – As she spent most of her
time with Miss Lafar in the country she had
I guess – rather a stupid time of it – the were
at a ~~bird~~ oyster supper at Bells on Friday night
given to her guests the Misses Campbells – Revd
Alexander Campbells Daughters – and Mary
has invited them – to bird supper – on tomorrow
evening – when she proposes quite a gathering
So you see that we are having quite a merry
time of it & we are beguiling under Mary's
influence

to have a cheerful house of it — and I suppose when you get home — you will see the change & enjoy it with us

Last week I spent in Louisville & entered upon my Grandfathership of Sister Berlakes Children — When you come home I shall throw it upon you as giving me some relief — While there I had a little pas with Master Robt Ford — checking his impertinence in his familiar allusion to your sister — talking of her beaux & saying it was understood that that one of them was agreeable to her — & that I was the only obstacle — which I rebuked in a manner that embarrassed the young gentleman & disconcerted him not a little — which I think may cool him off a little — as I called afterwards to see his mother & he did not make his appearance — though I did not ask for him — His Mother said to me she was going to write to you ~~Good~~ good & she does — answer her kindly & make special enquiry about Cousin Maria's health & the young heir or heiress ~~&~~ I do not know which & congratulate the Old Lady upon the birth of her Grand Child — Of course this matter between Bob & you must not seem to know — I will tell you particulars when I see you

I rec'd a letter from Dr Jenkins on yesterday he has had quite an attack of fever & ague & will come in in January & hopes to meet you there - The Dr thought industrious wants judgement - to manage such a concern - He will not pay expenses this year

All well & send you much love

Yr devoted Father

A. T. Duncan

Lexington Nov 27th 1858

My Dear Son

In my last letter to you - I gave my check for $150 upon bank of America payable to your Order - in which I hope came to hand safely $100 - the amount you wrote for - 50$ to pay my taylor for the clothes you ordered - which will be above the amount - the ballance go to the account of yr 100 $ - The clothes are received the vest is too short by 2 inches - The Coat is too scant, too short, & 2 inches to short in the sleeves The fashion I wanted, was like the fashion he made my summer suit - full in skirt, pockets behind with three in sides as he has made - a short sack - tight around the hips when buttoned to one of my figure - is perfectly horrible. I wish a Coat made longer, full in skirt with the addition 2 pockets behind - 2 to 3 inches longer - 2 inches longer in sleeve - measure of waist 46 inches - which is larger than his measure probably - The Coat I have - when I know the cost I will sell here or return

We have had - this week a large evening party for Mrs Preston - a gay & successful party Also a large dinner party for gentlemen at which the Vice President Breckinridge and

& Col Preston with some ten other gentlemen were the guests - your Mother Sister and Miss Huggins were at the table - we sat down at the table at 5 & rose after 8 - the affair went off very well - your seemed to enjoy it very much taking her seat with her Buckwheat among the guests - & Mr Shropshire taking his place at the head of the table & afterwards we & Carraway & Martha and the company the dinner was a success & I trust will encourage your Mother to try it often Lilly is wanting you & I hope & suppose will give you all the news

Now Etta I will give you an last sunday night after retiring to - we were aroused by the cry of distress - upon raising my window I saw Jimmy - who informed that somebody was beating John at pike - this impression was induced by his cry for help & murder - I jumped up the gun & got down as soon as possible - Instead of finding him beaten - he had (I suppose drunk) driven his buggy into the pond to water the horse could not turn & he swam out some 30 feet where he became entangled in the brush & drowned - the buggy sinking & settling on the brush - left his head resting & settling on Buggy nearly to his arm pits very cold & crying for help - we broke of some of the heavy plank at the stable & pushed it to him upon his getting on it we pulled him out - he was nearly

Jimmy - he has got over it all well & send your much love to Brother Tom

Lexington
November 27th 1858

My dear brother

it is Saturday and I have leisure and think it high to answer your letter.

Thursday Thanksgiving day we all went to Church but Father I went with Miss Higgins we had a five o'clock dinner the persons were Mr Preston Minister to Madrid Mr John C Breckinridge vice President of the United States of America Mr Davis's Uncle Davy Mr Frank Hunt Mr Shropshire Judge Buckner Mr William Dudley Mr Macalister Mr Brank Miss Higgins went in with Mr Frank Hunt and Uncle Davy as sister Mary told you I go she and Mattie were going in with in her

daughter. I have nothing more to tell you all send love to you your affectionate sister Lily Duncan

letter I will not tell you.
they all tried to make Uncle
Davy tight but he knew what they
were after and they could not get him
to drink much time they sat down
to dinner at five and got up at
eight and went away at half
past nine. When they got through
with dinner Uncle Davy invited
us all to go in to see the Tableaux
at the Sayre Institute they were
got up by the two Miss Foods of
Pittsfeild Miss Higgins Sister Mary
Sister Ellen and Myself went to see
them they were very pretty when
we got in Uncle Davy told
the people that a duplicate to our
dinner could not be got up in
Lexington so you may judge what
a handsome dinner it was but it
would have been all right if you
had been here you would have
engayed yourself to much
I wish you would beg Father
to let you come and Christmas
I asked him last night but he would
not say anything. When you wrote
to sister Ellen that you were
sick but I hope you are well now Sister
Ellen went to town yesterday and
stayed all night at Docter Matthews
Sister Mary and Miss Higgins went
in to take their music lessons this
morning. Mrs Pronson had a party
last night given to Mrs Preston she
did not invite any body out here.
the large Newfoundland dog that
Sister Mary brought from Louisville
had the Distemper which turned into
Rheumatism and he cannot get up
I think he will die it is very large
for its age it is only eight months
old and is nearly as large as Otto
Cousin Robert Ford has a little

Lexington Dec 5th 1858

My Dear Son

Upon my return home ~~from Bedford~~ on Friday evening from Bedford – where I had spent several days – I found your last letter – acknowledging the receipt of my check for 150$ also the bill of my Taylor, reasonable enough – But for the short vest & tight sack – would all be well But just imagine to yourself the effect of a short tight sack – upon a gentleman of 210 lbs The sack is a comfortable garment, if long enough & full & free – In a letter since I requested that he try his hand again – upon the sack or full skirted coat

Since the dinner here on Thanksgiving day nothing of consequence has occurred – A great intimacy has sprung up between your Sister & Mrs Macalister – so you see what changes occur You ask for Mrs McKee address – It is – Mrs Jane McKee – or if you choose Mrs Col McKee

I shall rejoice my dear Son when you are through – I fear the rigid climate of Cambridge does not agree with you – you are frequently sick & your friends have been kind to you in wanting you to their houses – which I shall gratefully remember – All send you much love – In haste your Devoted Father

A. T. Duncan

which father has received from Mr Charles Nadenson and which is almost as difficult to read as Egyptian hieroglyphics.

All join in love to you

I remain your affectionate

Sister Ellen J

Dunceanron Dec 12th 1858

My dear brother

I received your letter of the 6th and am very glad to hear that you were well enough to resume your College studies. The reason I did not answer it sooner is that I have been so busy. For we had been until yesterday the weather has been very rainy and disagreeable.

It is but two weeks until Christmas and if you were here we should be perfectly happy.

We are all in Mothers room Sister Mary Miss Higgins and Lily are all singing hymns I think you here here do you enjoy it so much.
Mr West gave Sister Mary a hooking tire which is said to be a very fine singer but it has sung none since it came. He says that it will not sing until February so you will have the benefit of his singing.
Miss Laura Wilson daughter of the Apothecary made her debut on Thursday evening every body was there. They say Mr Charls Jacob is to be married in two weeks to Miss Nannie Hunter of Louisville, in two weeks it is all so said that Miss Thos Breed is to marry Mr Bacon brother of Mrs Geo Brand I believe there is no one else to be married except Miss Clay but she will not acknowledge the fact
Miss Higgins is now studying a letter

Lexington Dec 12th 1858

My Dear Son

Yours of the 1st inst - I found at hand upon my return from Louisville - on Saturday evening - The state of your health, has been the occasion of much anxiety & solicitude - would it not be better for you to ask leave of absence from President Walker - & return home & here in our milder climate recruit your health - as it is near the close of the term - ~~and~~ unless your health is sufficiently reestablished - you will be but poorly able to attend to your studies & duties - In which event - it would be better to return home than to be confined in Cambridge - do not start however unless you are able to stand the travel with safety - Should you with the advice of your physician deem it most prudent to return home at present - you can draw upon me for what funds you need for the trip - and procure from Dr Walker - leave of absence to recruit your health

With our kindest regards to Dr & Mrs Sparks

I remain yr devoted F Father

N. T. Duncan

P S All send you much love

Present my kindest regards & thanks to Mrs Sparkes for her kindness to you & also to other kind friends of yours, indeed I feel very grateful that you have met with so much kindness. Has your chum recovered his health? I trust that your sick chamber has produced some serious reflections of the importance of a thorough preparation for such time, of the admonition "Be ye also ready for ye know not at what hour the Son of Man cometh." All send much love to you. God bless you my dear son with the devoted love of your Mother

Duncannon
Dec 16th 58

My very dear Son

Your bad health has made me very unhappy, it is perfectly suicidal for you to remain in Carn-, it is not the place for you in the state you are in, I am very anxious about the operation on your tonsils but hope that it will not prove necessary. I have been at your Father to write to Dr Walker for a recess until next term, I said if he did not I would

so he wrote to you with direction to show it to the Dr if necessary. Will that be sufficient to obtain your release until next term? Let me beg of you to leave as soon as possible before the severe weather sets in, You could come on leisurly, & come the south-ern route, If you come via of N. York it would be advisable to call & see Dr Hall about your throat he has devoted a great deal of time to that part of the human system, & there is no doubt but that his knowledge in the case is very great, there is no harm to try before it is too late. I do most serious-ly desire you to have his advice in your case - it will do no harm, & may be the means of perfect resto-ration. You might also come via of Washington & witness the assembled wisdom of the nation. You will also meet Col Preston's family there before they leave for Madrid, Mrs P. is a very charming woman they or rather the Preston family are fine repre-sentatives of America to the Spanish court -

Lexington Dec. 27th 1858

My Dear Son

We are much relieved by the receipt of your last letter - which I found at hand upon my return home from Bedford on Christmas eve - I hope there will be no necessity for operating upon your tonsils & I am glad that you have concluded to stay until the close of the term - this is for better as it might have produced an obstacle to your graduation

I wish I had have thought of it in time to send you a saddle of mutton for your Christmas dinner - I should have done so - except that we thought it probable you would be at home by that time after my letters to you to return, I sent to Jos P Gardener Esq - a superb saddle - to be by him presented to the Club of which he is a member - (The Sumnerset Club I think) for their Christmas dinner - I sent one to Mr Bancroft N York - of whom we received such kind attentions while at New Port last summer - If you desire such a present to any of your friends upon your

return

It can then be forwarded

We have nothing new — I have terminated Taylors services with me and employed a young man named Wood very highly recommended — who commences with the 1st of Jan

Will you have time to make enquiry — whether any gentleman in the Neighbourhood of Boston — as they have some fancy breeders there) the Irish Grazier hog It is a large white hog — stout boned and great length — deep in the rib & chest — as I wish to purchase a Boar & Sow — for a crop — You recollect our visit a year or two ago with Mr Silsbee to the counting seat of a Mr Loring — who had a Stock of rather fine hogs — But my impression is that they were the Suffolk breed — If so they are too light in the bone and do not attain the weight and size of the Irish Grazier & not so well adapted to our purpose — The Hogs I shall want until Spring — If the best & purest breeds Irish Grazier, cannot be had in the Neighbourhood of Boston or N Y — I shall give an order to have them imported — through Mr Lenerick

Gardener has made no enquiry in relation to a stallion — I presume, as I have heard nothing from him — The price of Ethan Allen being beyond all bounds

I suppose it is now certain that Mr Breckenridge marries Miss Clay in March, Nothing further new

All joine in much love to you Miss Higgins & Ellen are upon a visit to Paris — will return to morrow

Our kindest regards to Mr & Mrs Sparks

Ever Love

Your devoted Father

H. T. Dunnavant

[1858?]

M

I must beg your pardon a thousand times dear Mr Duncan for not having thanked you this morning for the beautiful book you so kindly sent me. I hope the outside of the parcel directed to Miss Mary and sup pond I of course

the contents were
for him. I dis-
covered after you
left that one of
the books was
for me. Please
accept my warmest
thanks, and with
best wishes for a
Happy New Year
believe me
yrs very sincerely
Lizzie F. Bordlett

Pembroke St
Jan 1 / 41

[1858?]

Dear Mr Duncan

A few of our young friends are to pass tomorrow evening with us without ceremony for the purpose of dancing the Lancers - If you have no other engagement

We shall be happy
to see you

Yours truly again
Mary J. B. Dispard

Garden St
Tuesday

[1858?]

Saturday

My dear Wm Duncan,

I had just sealed my letter when your father presented me with a beautiful Bouquet, which he says is a present from you. I therefore opened the envelope to enclose this scrap upon

which I would write my thanks if I knew what to say, but I really do not know how to thank you for it. I wish you however to believe that I fully appreciate your kindness in this as well as in many other instances.

And remain,

Very sincerely yours

M. D. Higgins

Mr. H. T. Duncan Jr.

[1858?]

Dear Wm. D.

They have all written to you lately and left me nothing to say - So I merely take up my pen to request most earnestly that you will obey your dear father

and come home
at once. We shall
expect you with so
much anxiety - I hope
your throat is better
I was very sorry to hear
that you had been
suffering -

In great haste
your friend
"The Saint"

[1858?]

Dear Sir,

"Balsowne"

is at West Roxbury, Spring St. about eight miles from Cambridge by road passing through Brookline.

The drive from Boston is the same distance.

The "Medham cars" leave the Providence R.R Depot every few hours as advertised under head of "Providence R.R." by

getting out at "West Roxbury" Station you are within five minutes walk of the Stable to which any one about the Station can direct you. I should be pleased to have you see the horse at any time, and in case I am not there which is lately the case in afternoon from 2 to 5, Fenn who has charge of him will be at your service.

Yours very truly
Dimey & Shaw

H. T. Duncan Jr.
Cambridge

make a superb team — the bay fillies though not over 5 feet — have great style and beauty, & are as much alike as two peas — the grays are a close match — I shall get out of the stock about 4 or 5 pairs of matches — & the bellower single horses. You can pay your oats — in the — fast buggy horses — when you return — To pick on the subject of horses — I see from the papers that you had recently a trotting match over Boston — that Ethan Allen, Columbus and another were entered for the trot. That Ethan Allen won at 3 straight heats (it being best 3 in 5) the 2 last heats in 3.35. As Mr Jas Gardner — has a fancy for fine horses — I wish you would enquire through him — who is the owner of Ethan Allen? Where does he live? At what price can the horse be purchased? Has he proved himself a breeder of fast horses? What is his age &c &c?

Remember me to my friends, all send you much love

Your devoted Father

A. T. Duncan

Lexington Oct 21st 1858

My dear Son

Without any of your valued letters unanswered — I sit down now that I have retired — to write to one so much the object of my hopes & wishes, and I may add ambition. I read the Catalogue you sent — altho it would have greatly pleased me to have seen you occupy a more prominent position in your class, yet I hope my dear Son in the long run of life when you come to act upon a more extended theater among men — you will take a far higher rank — than is indicated — by the addresses to parents & Guardians — accompanying the Catalogue — Be not discouraged — but press on to the prize of the mark of the high calling, — Be resolved and act with a strong will & firm purpose — to make your mark, and place your name upon the roll of ~~honors~~ which — will be segnalized in your day and generation

I enclose you a invitation to Lucy Elliot's wedding — a pretty hasty affair — She was introduced and saw for the first time — the gentleman at Jas B Clay's party, which came off a fewn weeks ago during the fair — about

which they are

I wrote you – I believe – ~~that~~ is to be married next week, he is said to be a worthy young man – a nephew of Edmund T Johnson – But their is a haste about it, that is shocking to any taste – Mary has been over to Ashland for the last two days – aiding and abetting her friend Miss Lucy – in the preliminary arrangements for the affair Your Sister – Miss Preston Miss Ewing and a Miss Johnson (Sister of the groom) are to act as bride's maids upon the occasion To night the subject of Mary's evening the bride a party upon the following evening when Strauss band will be in attendance that's on to Morrow night week – And the result of the conference is – that the party will be given – Your Mother yielding a ready Consent – which rather surprised me – The influence of the girls and their wishes Your Mother is evidently conforming to – I wish you were at hand to aid me, in doing the honors of the occasion – Altho absent, my dear Son you will not be forgotten upon the gay occasion

To day I sold Sue & her May Mack about ten years of age for $1700 – Slaves are in more demand & for larger prices than I have ever known – She gets a good home in the Neighborhood – had I been sold them to go below I could have got 1900 or 2000 I am offered 800 Cash for Amanda as worthy a negro as lives, I ask 700 & expect to get it – I am anxious myself to dispose of every one I do not absolutely need – Indeed it would be better to let them all slide – & put my estate in grass

I am engaged at Bedford in arranging and making my trotting track – It is in a field in which the Lewis house stands you will recollect the form of the ground a gentle swell from every point to the house – where you can stand and see every jump of the horse – we have up some ten Colts now – upon their being thoroughly broke – they will be turned out and a new set taken up their place are some 25 or 30 to break & handle General of the Colts by Bloods Black Hawk will be very fast – The bay & brown filly out of my 2 Carriage mares are very rapid – Next year horse the sorrel – their are several Females very fast & of great promise – Their is a pair of match grays & a pair of bay fillies full sisters – their will

Lexington Oct 17th 1858

My Dear Son

Without any of your famous maneuvering, I take up my pen, altho nothing is scarce to give you a letter — which I fear will hardly pay the perusal

Your Sister has returned home well satisfied with her trip to Louisville — Mrs Preston gave her a splendid party — which came off while I was there, after I left Mrs Ewing gave her a small party, which she says was very agreeable, she dined out & spent several evenings — The only thing that annoyed me while there was the presence of the deputy Marshal, wants tact & judgement in getting rid of this sort of Cattle — It is a disadvantage with clever men, that their civilities are permitted as it leads to false impressions and rumours that are prejudicial — I fear she is too fond of admiration, hence she gives "Aid & Comfort" to all — which I dislike

Mrs Flint returned home in the hack — She also showed her love of dogs & pets — by bringing home a splendid Newfoundland dog

I shall probably send forward more Cattle as the market has improved

a letter – my wheat is not sold as yet and I fear there will be no improvement in price – My Lexington filly has been in training for 4 or 5 weeks & is said to be exceedingly promising – beating all the colts in her stable in the course of 10 days more she is to make her final trial run for the fall & then turned out until spring I shall attend this race

I rec'd on yesterday a letter from W. L. Minor of Butcher – upon the subject of his purchasing the Henry farm – I have just answered his letter & if he really wishes to purchase a fine property he will take it at the offer $40,000 – for 277½ a the improvements are really the best in the County and cost over 30000 $

My trotting colts are coming on finely – we shall have several 2.40 horses in the lot – your – Colt but for the awkward manner he throws his fore foot – is among the finest in the lot – I hope he will improve as they use him in this particular

I shall probably indorse a son of Mr Alex Hammeter to master for me next year – Taylor gets worse instead of better

I sent off Amanda for sale she 1100 $ Cash but ask 700 – I am offered 1700 for Sue & her Son Nat – Jerk 1800 $ – Negroes are very high, I shall sell several – Should like to cut myself down, to such as I actually need and no more – I will take the offer for Amanda if I cannot get my price – If I were to put up my Negroes they would bring from 12 to 1400 for men 800 to 1000 for women & girls – Julia & Laura would bring 1000 each – this will give you an Idea of the price of this sort of property – I ought to wipe out & but from your mothers Scruples would do so – What do you say to it

Remember us to all enquiring friends – Has Warren paid you for the Whiskey & what does he say of it

All send your much love – present our kindest regards to Mr & Mrs Spades – The Misses Ridgeway – Mrs Fay &c

I am

Your devoted Father

N. J. Bancroft

When Gardener tries his rod, let me know the result – whether he has ever tried anything to equal