H. T. Duncan Esq. 1. 11. 14. 15. 19. 25. 28. 30. 32. 35. 42. 46. 52. 55. 59. 61. 62.

Mrs. E. Duncan 3. 12. 17. 20. 27. 33. 38. 47. 50. 51. 54. 57. 58.

Miss Mary – 10 – 13. 16. 18. 26. 34. 36. 43. 45

" Ellen – 22 – 39. –

" Lily – 2 – 24. 31. 36. 44. 48. 56. 60.

A. Agassiz. 21 relation to Miss D –

A B C D E F G H I K L M N O P Q R S T U V W Y Z

Mrs. J. C. Ford. 4. 8.

Miss M. D. Higgins. 41. 53

E F G H I K L M N O P Q R S T U V W Y Z

C. D. Jacob. 9.

H. D Jenkins 37.
Jamb. H. Jenkins. 40.49.

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Mrs. Jared Sparks. 7.
Jefferson Scott. 5.

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James Walker. 6.

Garland Watt jr 29.

V
W
Y
Z

love to yourself & Dear Henry
Your Devoted Father
H T Duncan

Lexington Jan 1st 57

My Dear Son

Your Mother rec'd from you to day your letter of the 28th ultimo - & always - most welcome to us all - You mention that with the exceptions of Lily's letters, you had not heard from home for 8 days This is strange - As your Mother & myself have written you every week since my return home - and sometimes I have written oftener I wrote you on Monday of this week & enclosed you a check of 250$ which I hope has come safely to hand by this time - you may need more If Miss Higgins comes out with you - If so inform me or use out of any surplus in Mary's funds - which we will replace - If she can spare it or I will If needful send

another Check

You seem to have had a pleasant Christmas — of it I regretted that I had forgotten to send you by Express 2 or 3 saddles of mutton for distribution among your friends, in time for Christmas — But we will do so hereafter, I am reserving & shall succeed if the weather continues cold — the finest saddle of venison for you, I ever saw which I brought in from Illinois with me — killed upon my own Land — weighing the deer dressed 160 lbs — the largest I ever saw — I shall have a large park for deer — so that we can have them in abundance when we go out

I wrote to your sister this week a cautious and earnest letter relating to the general character of intercourse a young lady should observe in her inter-

=course with society, situated
as she is - that she should avoid
the acquaintance of those young
"Cubs," who crowded our Colleges
and were boarding house visitors
What it did not devolve upon
her to assist in entertaining the
visitors of her Landlady, that
she had her own room Books
and Studies - and should excuse
herself and not mingle with
them - to bear herself with
reserve and dignity & never
permit a familiar acquain
tance & intercourse, the latter
was in general terms - not in
forming her that I had heard
any thing - as to the boarding
house I suggested that the
distance was too great this
I saw and enclosure near
=ness & ease which I fre
quent she will show you
when you read it you can

enforce the owners there Tarrier
It is a proper precaution to be
suggested in due season — Though I have
every confidence in your sister's dis
cretion — It is not right that she
should have unworthy acquaintances
on those who have not the proper
position

Your brothers Kin at Chatta
=nooga are in trouble — their
property has been sold once — and
the time for its redemption is
near at hand being necessary to re
deem the property or redeem it; they
on Mrs Hall has made an un
fortunate appeal to your Mother
and you will not be surprised
when I tell you with entire
success, She is certainly one of
the best & most benevolent
of human beings — I forward you
to day a Check for 600$ to re =
deem the property & take the
title myself to prevent a re
currence of the same trouble
all well & join in much

2

Duncannon
Jan 1st 1857

My dear brother
I received your letter yesterday and was very glad to hear from you.
Alice's Christmas tree was most splendid I wish you and sister Mary could have seen it with all the bonbons hanging on it
Alice had upwards a hundred

Christmas ~~fro~~
presents her brother
and sisters sent her from
France. they were so pretty
the bon bons she made
at home she had some as
large as my hand she
had one that Miss
carrie Preston made with
a little slipper on it.
it was so pretty it was
pretties on the.
cousin Julia sent me
a little pair of socks for
my little doll for a
Christmas gift evelia jane
timberlake gave me a little
sofaha and three little chairs
made out of pins dont
you think they are nice
Christmas gifts. all
send love to you and
sister Mary your affect'e
old sister Lily

3

Duncannon Jan 1st
[1857]

My beloved son

"A most happy New Year" to you, & one always most ardently desired by every parent for their dearly loved children - & truly happy should I be if this on which we have entered should be most preeminently so, not only for this life but for the life to come Some time has elapsed since I penned a letter to you, still you heard from us & nothing of importance has transpired saving that we made our visit to Louisville & had a pleasant one although the weather was intensely cold, owing to which we cut it short, besides it being Christmas it was necessary for me to be

Send much love to brother & sister

at home, Your father would have been all alone which he dislikes very much at this season, Your letter came just after our return or was in the office concerning the visitors at the boarding house which set your father in a flurry, he would say he would go on to Cambridge, then Mary had better come home with you I do not remember when he was more disconcerted, he could not sleep, would puff, & blow, turn from side to side, finally sweet sleep came & the morning brought some degree of composure, I could but laugh, You would have supposed "Paradise was lost" to see the commotion, equilibri-um is restored, nothing in ref-erence to the subject is said

You will soon be at home now, & all matters will be safely considered, Would not the southern route be more pleasant to return home? The trip will be a disagreeable at this season, may you be preserved from the perils of travel - You & M enjoyed a visit to Salem I know, Your father received a long letter from Mr Silsbee concerning a location in Ills for a relative of his, & he mentioned that they expected you on Christmass - This is a very bright day, but the ground is covered with snow, E & L wou at their father to have a sleigh but it is so uncertain how long the snow will last that any preparation seems useless We have plenty of turkies for

you, in the beginning of the season the number was upwards of sixty our family being small we have not diminished them much -
Mrs Macalister has returned I have not seen her but your father has, she expressed herself much pleased to meet you in St. P. -
I am really sorry that M has not a more agreable roommate, It is very important that a young lady should cultivate refine-ment of manners, so if she be a looking glass for M & cause her to avoid all that is not lovely, it will have a happy effect, I trust it will not pro-duce an opposite, My love to to my dear children, C. & L also Regards to friends Your ever affectionate Mother

Send much love to Brother & Sister

Louisville Jan 6th 1857

My dear young Cousins

I have thought for some time that I would send you a line or two occasionally, prompted by a desire to hear of your well being &c, in return, for the poor letter I should write you, My thoughts have been so much with you of late, that I am constrained to wait no longer, but gratify myself to-day, Our recent holiday, was gladdened by the presence of your excellent parents, & many a talk, had we, of our dear absent Children - You were all remembered at the family board, & with loving hearts, by little fat rosy

happy faces, by the mature smiles, (thro tears). Ellen, & Lilly, dear Children — have no doubt — given you an account of their visit, which contributed so much, to the pleasure of us all — there was but one thing, to mar the joy of it, it was too short. I hope, at our next family union, you may both be present, adding still to our happiness — on Christmas day we pictured you, in our minds, dining with some kind New England friends, yet thinking of home, & my dear absent ones. in a distant & stranger land, at their own quiet little board, We have promised your Father to meet next year at Dunceron the following one here, & so on, alternately while we live — & are permitted to do so. is it not a pleasant thought? May God, in his Mercy & love, keep unbroken our circle, & permit this happy reunion,

I hear Mary, that you are the finest Skater on Fresh Pond, I can imagine I see you, sailing away & hear your merry laugh - your attentive Brother, watching you, with pride, & intent it is a beautiful & healthful exercise, & prepares you for your hours of study & improvement mentally,

I hear very often from your Cousins across the Ocean - the last intelligence, was, that they were just leaving for Italy - they have been three months & a half in Paris - & enjoyed it highly - Marie, speaks French well, & is the interpreter often of Cousin Robert, who never would, master the language, they are both in fine health - they will prolong their sojourn until next Autumn,

I am not willing, dear Henry, as you see, to let you off, from a correspondence

tho' of short duration, was most agreable to me, & I now beg that you sometimes leave the classics, for a more humble theme, your Cousin of the back woods, Mary as I have broken the ice, will of course let me hear from her, I pray you dear Child, write me, & rattle on as you talk, which is in a very agreeable way - Alice, is at school, or she would have some kind message for you, she went off yesterday with her Rachel, willingly - but looking as tho' she thought it was a terrible change, from the preceding happy week, your Aunt Trimble, Cousin Nannie, & Di are well - & often speak of you both, Mr Ford got up, a few days after your Mother & Father left, & regrets not meeting them, I have filled my sheet, & must say good bye - Will you not write soon to your affectionate Cousin?

M. J. F.

St Louis Mo January
11 1857 5

Dear Henry

I will take it as a very great favor of you if you would call at Briggs in Washington Street Boston have an Ambrotipe Copy of the Picture Your Sister Mrs Caddy Shackelford her father wishes to have a portrait painted from it I wrote to your father to get me the original but he informs me that Mary left it at Cambridge and promised me a Copy but suppose he has forgotten it please send it by adams Express to St Louis Mo, We are all well come & see us when you get through College

Truly
Jefferson Scott

6

Cambridge Jan 16. 1857

Dear Sir

The Faculty consent to your postponing attention to the subject of your requisition until your return to Cambridge.

Yours very sincerely

James Walker

H. T. Duncan

Jan. 31, '57

7

Kind and considerate in you, my dear Duncan, to let us know that Miss Higgins has justified the expectations of your Parents.

I am most happy to reciprocate the good wishes of Mr. and Mrs. Duncan.

Your friend Miss Fay is well, and Mrs. Greenough. The former told me on Friday that she was "very" glad that Miss (Stone?) did not accept your proposals, from all she knew of her. And Mrs. Greenough observed that "although a good teacher" she did not think her adapted to the place. She had not satisfied herself, and

had once since then been "bought off" when she went, by those who were desirous to get rid of her.

I was almost confident it was the same person, and the connection must be my apology for suggesting a doubt when you spoke of her. — for which I found it difficult to apologize to myself on consideration.

I shall be happy to be of service to your friends should they desire it. Mr. Sparks begs Dr. & my sincerely your friend

Mary C. Sparks.

Saturday. 31. January '57.

Commerce. Mich.

Kind regards to Mrs Higgins. I shall think of her to Mrs Todd

8

Louisville Feb 2d /57

My dear Cousin

I should have replied more promptly to your very kind letter, but for a slight indisposition, contracted during the "Artic" weather we have had, I have been muffled in shawls & flannels, to keep above "Zero", until I feel like an old woman, (which I shall soon be), This, my first convalescing day, I have unwrapped sufficiently to use a pen — I thought of you, when we read the accounts of the recent terrible snow storm at the North, & felt relieved to receive your letter from Duncannon, assuring us of your comfortable quarters, You might be generous

enough of yourself, to spare me a few days of your visit, I wish to see you very much, can you not fly down & take just two dinners with us? Do not be deterred by the gloomy reports you read of our unfortunate City. We have yet, that blessed spot, our fireside, to which I should love to welcome you. The past few days, we have hoped the river would open, & improve our condition, but it is yet "hope deferred". Mr Ford reached home the 2d of January, just escaping the closing of navigation. He thinks of going to Boulder soon — & I thought at one time I would accompany him, but I am so much tempted by this variable climate of ours — I fear to make a visit in winter, & then, it is my intention to spend a fortnight at your Father's hospitable home soon — beginning at the 12 of April!

Shall we not meet you there, on that interesting occasion? Your Father will be pleased to hear that I am entirely relieved, from an annoyance, which he witnessed while here, tho' I am sorry to say the pledge he administered, did not bring about the happy result, Mrs Ford's return, & his invariable resort in such cases - the "Inebriates Hope" was the remedy. My last accounts from our Gamy travelers, was from Florence where they were sunning themselves, most happily. We expect daily their first letter from Rome, classic Rome! the eternal City! so fraught with interest. I am sorry to say you will not have the opportunity of accompanying the Dr & Nannie to Europe next summer, the Dr is tied head & feet to the College, how the dear little man lives I cannot tell, he has not taken off his clothes to sleep for ten days

or rather nights, he always dines heartily, which must be the secret, so do you remember that prescription — Alice has been most assiduously besieging the post office, for a letter from Ell ever since she has been down — she has at last come to conclusion, that she has not written; tell Elly she must remember her promise.

Has the new Governess arrived, & how does she suit; tell Ell she must be loving, Alice is translating Paul & Virginia & very well, give, good little Lilly, with her a kiss from us all, I shall be pleased to hear from you, before you return to these cold Northern regions, but much more pleased to see you, you must remember me most affectionately to your Mother & Father, & to Mary when you write, — I am most truly, yr affe Cousin

Mary Jane Ford

9

1 Broadway, Hotel Feby 4. 57.

Dear Henry.

My friend Mr Pelot having business that ~~will~~ calls him to Louisville to morrow Morning, I am obliged to leave Lexington without having seen you to bid you good bye before you depart for Cambridge. Enclosed you will find your Sister's account of expenses, which I had intended giving to you to day but was not able to come to town until quite late. My Louisville address will be "Care of Thos P. Jacob" – Wishing to be remembered very kindly to your family, I remain

Yours Very Truly
Chas. D Jacob

Henry T. Duncan Esq.

Lexington Feb 23th 1857

My Dear Son

I have this moment rec'd your despatch of the 21 also your letters of the 15 & 17th — you cannot immagine how I have been relieved by the receipt of your despatch & shall dismiss the painful subject — I shall hasten out with it to your Mother & Sister Mary

The Coat came to hand a few days since greatly too large — I must send it back and either have it tried again or exchanged for something else — Let him know his failure to fit & my purpose to return it

Upon ~~Mr B's Executors~~ declination being rec'd we have secured the services of Dr R J Breckenridge to deliver the address — It will be done in fine style — with great ability — The time of laying the Corner Stone — will be deferred to either the 29th June the day of Mr C death — or the 4th July as the Contractors cannot get ready by Apl

All send you much love

Your Devoted Father

H. J. Duncan

Night. Dec. 17. 1866

22

The day is done, and the darkness
Falls from the wings of night,
As a feather is wafted downward,
From an eagle in its flight.

My dear brother

We have had most delightful weather for one or two days the son has been shineing brightly & the ground frozen hard the ice is two or three inches thick it is very nice skateing Lily & I have been down to the pond several times it was very nice we had fire on shore & when ever our feet or hands got cold we could warm them without coming to the house It snowed all day monday but the next day it thawed so the snow all runaway

Mother received your letter yesterday in which you spoke of the skateing parte whear you had to carie a young ladie to shoar Mother said that it was out ragious for her to impose on any one so Father laughed & Lily said it was too bad & she ough to be ashamed of her self. Mary Taylor said that if she had been in your place she would have pretended to have tumbled & let her fal Oh me just think you will be home so soon yet how slow the time seams to pass when those we love are expected but when they come it flies to to fast how I dear sister was coming then we would all be at home except cuzy he seams like one of us I am so sorry that he lives so far away Father thinks cuzy is makeing a very good farmer he still wears the old slough hat of years bent full of holes beating and the paraia fires & greasy enough to make he sopp he wears it with a comfort tied overit so as to make a sloop of it you may guess how he looks driving the oxen bull & buck ge we have

I guess he has a prity rough time of it poor fellow

Father has a brought home two Deer the largest weid one hundred & seventy five lb we will try & keep the saddle til you come home do you like venison? if you do I guess you will like this it will be very nice & tender for it has been here for two weeks & perhaps more I do wish sis could be here to help us to enjoye it.

We are going to spend Christmas in Louisville with cousin Mary Foard guess we will have a very nice time of it Alice is to have a Christmass partie I'll tell you all about it when we come home. I'll tell you what they are all doing Mother & Father are talking about uncle father says that he expects that uncle will have to be an old batchilor mother says horibal & that father ought to be ashamed to say so & that it would be to bad Lily says that she is affraid uncle will stay out there until he gets musty and nobody will have him I am a fraid so too, it would be outragous. Lily is makeing her doll Stella Maria a dress to go to a ball in.

When I saw Mrs & Mr Sair they told me when I wrote to give you & sister there love they all wards in quire for you & sister when ever they see us I love them boath very much

All join in love to you and sister & the Pacobs.

Good night I remain your loving sister

Ellen Duncan

February
Saturday 28 the 1857

My dear brother

I have just got up from the dinner table and come up stairs to write to you I would have written to you sooner but have been kept so busy that I have not had time to write but I will try to write oftener hereafter. Miss Higgins sister Ellen and I went to town last Evening. sister Mary and Father went down to Louisville wednesday Morning I will expect them this evening or monday. Miss Higgins is giving cousin James music and drawing lessons he is getting along very fast both in drawing and music. sister Ellen and I have learnt a very pretty little duet and play it together.
~~the west is the night~~ We all went in monday night to the College to hear the speeches of the young men ~~made~~. on the birthday of General Washington Miss Higgins brought

home the programs which I will send to you it is of the young men of the College and the normal School.

I have no news to tell you. I must soon finish my letter for I must go down to practice but it will be very short. that I am nearly afraid to send it but I know that you would rather have a short one than none at all so as you hear from us if it is short

I must stop now all send love to you Miss Higgins sends her love to you

The servents desire to be remembered to you. Write soone to

your affectionate sister Lily, Duncan

Lily, Duncan

Excuse this bad letter

Record of Miss Lily Duncan for the Week ending Sept. 28th 1857

5 denotes a perfect recitation 4 good but not perfect 3 imperfect 0 an entire omission E excused. The number of delinquencies in conduct and attendance is indicated by the figures which designate them.

	Mental Arithmetic	Mental Ar.	Geography	Grammar	E. Hist.	Spelling	Dictation	Letters	French	Music	Writing	Reading	Number of Delinquencies
Monday	5	3						4	4	4			
Tuesday	3	4	5	4		5			5	4	3	4	
Wednesday	4		4	5	4	4	5	4	4	5	4		1
Thursday	3	5	3	4		5		0	4	5	5	4	
Friday	5	3	4	5	4	5		5	5	4	3	4	1
Saturday													

Perfect 16
Imperfect 7
Good 21
Entire Omissions, None

G. D. Higgins

Number of Delinquencies 2

Miss Lily Duncan

Week ending Feb. 28 '57

Lexington March 8th 1857

My Dear Son

As all the family have gone in this afternoon – to hear Dr Green at the University preach a sermon (which I do not doubt will be very good) – I have sit quietly to commune with you & have a little conversation with one, who is the object of so much my affections – my hopes – my fond anticipations – One in whom is centered so much that is to influence so much of my future happiness & joy – One upon whom in old age – I can repose with confidence & pride How much my Dear Son – you are to influence the future happiness of your family – By realizing their fond anticipations of your future prominent position & influence – upon the great theater of life To see you retire from your "Alma Mater" in 59 showering its honors – & distinctions for scholarship and high attainments – This will be a sure & firm foundation upon which you can erect a noble superstructure – Let me invoke your pride and ambition – to resolve upon winning distinction & high character – That you have the qualifications for success – and the harmonious union of high personal character & integrity – with intellectual qualities – which if properly directed – with diligent application on your part – must achieve

complete & eminent success — This is but one difficulty — and that is a fixed & persevering resolution on your part to succeed, this done you control your destiny — go into this race — with an indomitable will — not to be deverted to the right or the left — But pursue success — with unyielding resolution — Consider nothing as impossible in the way of success — permit no obstacle to interfere but press on, press on — and the victory is yours

I have recd the Catalogue of both College and institute — for which I thank you — This brings to my mind the great advantages of the institute — I hope you will improve them to the fullest extent — Its exercises especially in forming the habit of debate an accurate clear & correct style of public speaking is of the first importance — Cultivate the good opinion of your associates — the members of your Class and society — by deserving it — By a course of uniform courtesy & politeness — which costs nothing — you can ciliate and win the friendship of others — Geo C Breckenridge owes as much or more to his uniform urbanity — & courteous bearing — as to any intellectual superiority he may possess — Banish any & all feelings of indifference — and rouse yourself to manly & ambitious aims — make your name one of merit & honorable distinction — Think of nothing pursue nothing — that can divert your attention from the persevering and diligent pursuit of your studies & collegiate duties

The time for laying the Corner Stone of the Clay Monument is fixed for the 4th of July — which postponement was made from necessity — It was impossible for the Contractors to get ready much before that time & Mr Everett kept under consideration so long his purpose of declining speaking on the occasion — that it imposed great difficulty in procuring a suitable man to take his place — without giving more time — this postponement has obviated the difficulty — And I doubt not Dr Beecher will distinguish himself upon the occasion — I trust that your terms will be out in time to allow of your being at home on the occasion — It is one upon which I hope to see Boston fully and well represented — Your Sister's health is in such condition as to render doubtful the time of her return — I shall forward to Mr Sparks Warren and others invitations in due time to be present — inform me when your term is out & when we may look for you — Leary wrote to Mr Sparks some days ago & has had no answer — Your friend Dr Humphrey & spent last night with us, your Mother had family worship on the occasion — He his prayer my dear Roy — Thus was a most impressive & touching invocation for our only & absent son — That you might be the special object of the Divine blessing — That you might be shielded & protected, from those thousand snares that encompass every youth — That you might real

the fondest hope of your friends and re=
=turn and be an honor & blessing to your
family to society & to your country - and
finally receive those blessings & that ever=
=lasting inheritance in the world to come
the award of a well spent life - to all
of which - around the family altar - was
the hearty response of Amen - May those
that devote upon you

The monument will for several months
have much of my attention, when we hope to
collect all its means & get it under such
head way, as to need but little attention

We have nothing new - the weather
is cold very cold for the season - I have
upon further acquaintance with my
Canada Coat, become well pleased*
it is much admired - and I should not be
surprised that several orders go on next
fall for coats

I have not got rid of my neuralgia
entirely - medicines that I have taken - tho it
has eased pain has induced constipation
of the bowells

All well and join in much love
to you —

Your Devoted Father
A T Duncan

*The long sleeves I found an advantage in forcibly my hands comfortably

mail

Louisville Mch. 8, 1857

29

Dear Henry.

Your kind letter has been rec'd, and I am glad that even a whispering has brought back your pen. ~~to me~~ — I waited until I could wait no longer, then determined I would try to bring back remembrance of myself. —

I am glad to hear life is pleasant — a field of blossoms — and a morn of sunshine to you, — but hardly else can the days of youth — of warm-heartedness and of portent of the after-life, — the day of manly buffeting that strikes down ere drowning wave, to see but the the sparkling spray on the Sea, — ~~to Fade~~, through life, to James brightly — sparkling jeweled Crown — no hardly else, can such a time of life be. — Should it be else, — ~~then~~ youth the scene of storms of tempestous howlings o'er the should be Cup of pleasure and its galla day — only the moment that divides the Hell-like gulf of Misery and eclipsed moon-light of parasyphical joys, what an after-life, should it only ~~reflect~~ its dismal shadow unto the Futures unknown path-way. — but Henry I must cease unpleasant reflection, ~~and~~ without even knowing what threw me into this unnatural strain I am sure — yet how congealing to all my feeling of attachment, to feel — that friends, ~~pardon~~ not a friends infirmities, but instead rail against his weakness. — That is what has made several of my correspondents — cease both their communion and friendship. Repentance however is of no avail — and may Pluto pardon it — and them! —

Should you ever approach as nigh as Ky to Louisville and not let me see you, I dont know - shant say what I would do - exactly - but you must not do it

Our friends in Lex, have all gone from the sphere of the natural and now are puffed - to, half angel - the other air, where the need not the helps of freinds to make life pleasant, but are ever ready to ascend (transcendantly superior) ie above, - in graceful balloon-like attitude. to inhabit air-castles on blustry day.

How pleasant would - a meeting - and a long Conversation betwest now! Could not we manage to do something as wonderful as to bless each other with a optical examination of each others phiz! - wont

Here I am in Zimmerman's solitude - that would bless the minder. - somehow I have gotten with out my aid - the fame of an eccentric quer fellow, with whom no pleasure can be, for who can do nothing to suit them. — Very well. I am a philosopher - and know how to hold up against the tide of nail-clerk and toward I am Correspondent for the house - not quite but, thus far I, do most of it, and our Cashier - deputy, Mr Dunnis nil being head - do but lut nothing to do with it

He never applauds one - and all that has ever escaped his lips - was to one of my fellow-clerks

and that was – he feared not of my doing anything that he requested, since if I knew not how, I would work forever, always to comprehend any thing that I had the least desire to know

I like my situation very well and think at present prospects very good for advancement – if my unfortunate weakness does not make me indifferent

Now Henry – do not flag in your duty to your friend. – I shall remember you with pleasure to my brother and sister, and by the by, tell my brother that let Billy Bree, get ahead of him – I shall also mention Lu's negligence to her. –

Now write soon – well you. Your friend

W W Boyce

H. T. Duncan Jr.
Cambridge
Mass.

Care Dunn & Bill & Co
Jos Hooks Wells
N.Y.

=March 9, 1857= 30

My Dear Son

I send by this mail 3 Photographs of the Monument — Send one to Mr Everett Hand one to Mr Geo W Warren — and keep one for yourself to hang in your room

Nothing since my letter of yesterday has occurred — I have written to Warren & informed him you would hand him a copy

All well & send you much love

Your devoted Father

S T Duncan

Duncannon March 14th
1857.

My dear Brother,

I have just received a letter from you and I sat down directly to answer it. I was very glad to hear from you. I shall try and write often.
Cousin James has gone out to ride with sister Mary & Cousin Mary Rebecca Tiberlake she came to day to stay a few days.
Miss Kate and Miss Lucy Jacob with Mrs Clay and the Children were here on Wednesday last. Miss Higgins desires to be remembered to you and desires me to say that she will write to you - she is now makeing out my list for the week I will send you

one of my records, some week when
they are all good marks and not any bad ones.
I shall tell Cousin James that you say
he must write to you.
I am making Father a spectacle case
to give him on his birthday a chair
will be set at the table for you
all desire love to you,
your affectionate Sister Lily
Sunday morning 13th 57. I wrote this
letter last night Father came home so
late that I could hardly write but I am not
writing much better now I have such a bad pen,
it is a beautiful morning the birds are singing it
is like a spring morning I wish to see the
green house this morning it flabored with the
most beautiful flowers I wish I could send
you some I will send you some of the leaves of some
as I cant send the roses Mamma again you can not
make out my letter. Mates Mary told me to ask
you if that you meant by saying Miss D

Duncannon
March 18th 1857

My very dearly beloved Son

Your letter of the 11th came to hand on saturday evening 14th too late for a reply as I can not write by candle light, & for the last two days I've been so much engaged that it was impracticable for me to write any thing of importance, But I trust that "Richard is himself again". You are too sentimetal, The Classicks have created a false sen-timent in your mind, such passion-ate & devoted attachments that they por-tray are not wise or manly, such as to pine & die because the object desired was not obtained, such pusillanimity is beneath the man. Miss W— has shewed herself wise in giving her heart's best love unto the Lord, The

only true source of happiness,
Oh! that you could be persuaded to consider your personal responsibility to your Creator, & to make the Book of books your daily study, when this important question is decided, then are we prepared to bear with patient fortitude & pious resignation the various trials of life, Your gloomy despondency grieves me much, nothing could give me more exalted pleasure than to see you rejoicing in the liberty wherein Christ has made us free. Trials & sorrows are man's inheritance & it requires more than human philosophy to sustain the mortal under them, Oh! may you be led to seek the all sufficient good that triumphs over all even our last enemy death, & crowns us victors through eternity, In regard to the letters you desired I

kept no copy of mine & am unable to send it, if you were to request it of Miss W— I presume no objection would be made to let you have it, the other I'll send you—
Your sister M's eyes & throat are better, she will make a second visit next week to Dr Flint—
On yesterday afternoon M went to Ashland & remained all night since breakfast rain has set in so that perhaps she will not return very early in the day— to day she intended to write to you, as she cannot use her eyes, the rising hour for her is quite late in the day, She has had a daguerreotype taken for Miss Ridgway—
Ellen & Lily are getting along finely Miss Higgins keeps them all day & night too I might say, for they are with her until 9 o'clock P. M—

for after that hour they are soon in bed & sound asleep — Your father went to Bedford this morning to remain until to morrow evening The Spring appears to be fully upon us Ploughing & sowing of oats &c are rapidly going on, We shall soon have fine fishing sport — but one that I am not particularly delighted with — There is no one enjoys it more than your father he carried a rod with him to Bedford — to try his luck there, Now I must say good bye as Henderson is ready to go in to the office, God bless you my dear son — Your ever affct Mother

E. & L — send much love to you Miss Higgins desires to be remembered to you, Kind regards to the Sparks'

Mon 24

Duncannon.
March. 19th/57.

My dearest Brother

More than a week has passed since I received your last letter, but Father has been writing and Lillie, so that you have not been without hearing from home. I spent Tuesday night and yesterday morning with Lucy Jacob at Ashland. Had a very pleasant visit. Brother said she wrote to you on yesterday. I spent part of Monday morning with Mrs Morgan and Laura Kessel; so you

dear
I have been visiting some this week. I had several ambrotypes taken on Tuesday morning, one of which I will send to Lizzie K— it is said to be an very good likeness. we think your ambrotype is an excellent likeness. I am going to Louisville on next Tuesday morning, Lucy will accompany me. I presume I will leave home very soon. my eyes are almost well and my throat much better. Father imagines I am no better, he has just returned from Bedford, where he spent yesterday, he has invited us to dine with him tomorrow, as it is his birthday. perhaps Lucy

and Kate Jacob will dine,
with us. Mother and I are
going to have a fine dinner,
and not let Father know
of it, we will have a
plate for you, and drink
your health. I have not
heard from Mrs Sparks yet,
Father says she is vexed
with me. Give her my
love also Mrs Sparks,
and remember me to
my other friends. I will not
write any more this morn-
ing, but in a few days,
write soon to your loving
sister, Nell joins me in love to you.

Mary.

Mar 28

Lexington March 21th 1857

My Dear Son

Your welcome letter of the 15th inst is this moment received - I enclose you a check for $100 - which you seem to need which I hope will be in due time.

I hope the arrangement you have made with the faculty about your Greek is satisfactory to you and is such as will not impair your standing in your class Will you be able advance your standing or grade in the class this term - When you speak of 2 courses left you of either reciting with the class or recite privately to Goodwin,, this I presume is for the Greek alone - and that you recite with the class in all other things - Your letter does not say - Inform me whether I understand you correctly or not

I hope in your Analytic Geometry - you will be able to sustain yourself fully as a Mathematician - will you?

As to the Dentist - If you need his services - call upon him - though I have no confidence in them & have awlways believed they done more harm than good

The slip from the Boston Transcript - you speak of having sent me - Has not come to hand - Cut it from the paper & enclose me in a letter

The work was commenced on last Tuesday - when we broke dirt - and is rapidly progressing - Every thing will be ready for the Ceremony of laying the Corner Stone on the 4th of July next - when we anticipate an imposing & magnificent pageant - We found the builder would be unable to get ready before that time - I regret we did not know this before my last letter to Mr Everett - & before I called upon Dr Breckenridge - as I think it probable he would have accepted with that delay, but we were too late

I shall probably be on with your Sister in April - I think she is mending

On yesterday the 20th of March the anniversary of my birth - your Mother gave us a nice dinner Mr Hill & Miss Lucy Jacob dined with us a plate was fixed for you - which of course no one occupied - with your Daguerotype likeness & a splendid Bouquet of flowers - your plate was filled with - It was delightful & you were specially remembered my son in a glass of Sparkling Champaigne - with a sentiment from Mr

Hill

which was drank with a bumper

I wrote you last week and sent you 3 copies of the Photograph of the Monument one for Warren — One for Mr Everett & One for yourself — I hope they came to hand

Your Sister wrote to Mrs Sparks a letter some weeks ago & has rec'd no answer — Is any thing the matter with her

We continue pleased with Miss Higgins she is a charming & good Woman

On yesterday morning — my birth day upon taking my seat at the breakfast table — I found in my plate a spectacle case beautifully worked and upon enquiring I found it the work of dear little Lily — who was all excitement to see the effect it would have upon her Father and all the rest at table — the little dove kept her secret and was delighted — So that I must wait for plate on her next birth day — & provide a surprise for her — All well & send you much love

Your Devoted Father

H. L. Pierson

Duncannon March 20th
[1857]

My dear Lud,

I gave Father his Spectacle Case this morning as it was his birthday I laid it in his plate at breakfast time, Miss Lucy Jacob came to spend the day with sister Mary, Mr Hill dined here to day, Mother and sister Mary gave Father a dinner we had a large fruit Cake ice Cream and several nice things, there was a chair placed for you and Miss Higgins sister Ellen and I gathered a nice bouquet and tied

it with a blue ribbon and
put it with your
Daguerreotype on your plate,
I expected a letter from you
to day I am afraid you are
getting lazy you do not
answer my letters I have writen
three to your one, I told
Cousin James that you
said he must write to you he
said he would I dont know
whether he has or not,
Miss Lucy and sister Mary Sister
Ellen and I have just come in
from walking we had a very
nice walk, Miss Lucy Jacob
desires to be remembered to
you, Mother received
two flounced silk dresses from
Philadelphia they are very
pretty, Miss Higgins is going
to send to sister Ellen and I

this evening while sister
Ellen and I work
you must excuse me for
what I said you were lazy
I know you are kept busy
all the time I donot
think I have improved
much in my writing but
I shall do better in a little
while I am glad you think
I have improved in my writing

all send love to you Mother
Father sister Mary sister Ellen
send a kiss to you
your aff sister Lily.

My dear Brother
As Lily has
a few vacant lines, I shall
add a few words, although
I do not think it will increase

the interest of the letter.

Mr Shropshire has sent a package to Cambridge for me by express. I will thank you to look after it.

Lilly has given you an account of the celebration of Father's birth-day. You were remembered in a glass of wine. Lucy will remain with me to night and will return tomorrow.

I shall write you a long letter in a few days. excuse my scribbling and write soon to your loving sister

Mary.

Hermitage Coles Co Ills
March 22nd 1857

Dear Henry

I am growing continually more and more remiss in my correspondence My mind & body too are becoming so engrossed with the multiplicity of cares attending my farming operations that very little leisure is offered for epistolary labor and when it is I confess I am far from being in a condition to evoke me to write a satisfactory letter This much in way of apology for having allowed your last letter to lie unacknowledged for so long a time. How long I cannot now say as the letter is mislaid. Fears often obtrude themselves upon me that my friends will or have grown suspicious that I am growing indifferent to them and care little to hear from them. If you entertain any such feeling I pray you to dismiss it for it ~~going~~ would do me great injustice though I confess the circumstances are against me. I hope you are progressing satisfactorily in your studies & are looking forward with well grounded hope of taking a high position in your class in its

closing year. Have you yet come to any positive determination as to the channel in which your future efforts will be directed? The law, literature and agriculture I believe have been the rivals preffing their claims upon your attention. Does your mind yet incline more strongly or decidedly towards any one of the three? As to the relative merits of the three in their adaptiveness to success, which ought to mean usefulness to the world or to society giving substantial happiness to the individual I have nothing to say as it is a matter wholly resting upon the tastes and capabilities of the person. To a mind fitted for the forum and the political arena and courting the applause of the masses as essential to procuring that degree of satisfaction which is equivalent to happiness the law presents preeminent claims. If instead a secluded & quiet life of laborious study best suits the turn of mind & satisfies its yearnings then literature is the appropriate field. And again if a love of nature in its quiet walks. The fields, & growing grains, flocks & herds and a ministration to the substantial fundamental wants of our fellow man is the stronger predilection

agriculture will prove the satisfying agent
But I need not enlarge upon these topics
you understand the matter as well as I
this much I will only add you are in
a condition to make a free & unprejudiced
choice Give yourself time, study well
your inclinations and aptitudes and go
according to their pointings. If your choice
should fall upon agriculture and you
should select this state as the field of
operations I shall be happy in your com-
panionship. I am very busy now getting
ready for spring work. On account of the
fact that I could not obtain board for hands
during the winter to make rails I shall
have some difficulty in getting the amount
of fencing done that I contemplated and
desired. I hope this difficulty for the fu-
ture is removed. I went to St Louis a week
or two ago and purchased furniture and
so forth for housekeeping; have hired a young
man and wife to keep house & hope in
a day or two to be ready to move in. As
the accommodations are quite limited I
shall not have full room for myself & hands
during the busy seasons at such times I
shall have to board; but some time during
the year I hope to build a commodious

house & then I shall take personal possession. Owing to the severe drouth of the Autumn; the absence snow and the severe cold during the winter the wheat is a partial failure. One half of it (about 60 acres) I fear will be a complete failure. I propose putting in 200 or 250 acres of corn; 10 or 15 acres of oats, & to break up about 200 A of prairie

From the exposures that I have sustained latterly, getting wet and over fatigue I have got on an attack of the ague; had of pneumonia. I am not yet fully recovered from its effects.

The last letter from your father gave me the unexpected intelligence that your sister Mary had returned home suffering from what he feared to be chronic bronchitis. I hope that his fears are groundless & that she will soon be restored. Her absence must be a great loss to you. I cannot commend the taste of rumor is well founded of your friend Miss Waters But you affirm with such positiveness that the dame speaks false that I am inclined to believe you know. Do not retaliate upon me but write soon

Yours affectionately
W D Spencer

Duncannon
Mar 26th 1857

My precious son

Your last letters manifest such a cheerful spirit, & vigorous determination to overcome all difficulties is truly delightful! That you are determined to show thyself a man, & I trust that you will be thoroughly imbued with the spirit, & feel with the Poet, "Press on! there's no such word as fail." But there is one of your decisions, I'm not so well satisfied with, & i.e. to room withe a papist such characters are next to the evil one himself, & I trust that you will fortify yourself by daily reading your Bible such reading alone can keep your mind clear & pure on the subject of your eternal interest, & which is

above every other, "Search the scriptures" is a divine command, & one if complyed with will bring a rich reward. Oh let it not be a hebdomadal service but let morning & evening bear witness to the faithful performance of this sacred duty, Remember, "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom"

There is quite a revival in the col^d churches, Frank & George were immersed a few sabbaths ago, last evening while sitting in the Library with Miss Higgins & James, Douglass came in for some medicine, & began to tell us how happy he was that his sins were pardoned, that he daily prayed for us all, & he said tell Master Henry I prays for him, & tell him what my Savior has done for me, You can't imagine how he talked & for some time, & said that he could talk all night but that he was too weak; he

seems to be declining very rapidly, but seems confident that his future state will be a blessed immortality. Your father accompanied by Miss Lucy Jacob & Mary left on tuesday A. M for Louisville, Miss J will be in Louisville for some time, M is on a second visit to the Dr. - her eyes are greatly improved & I hope will soon be entirly restored, her throat is slowly mending, I'm afraid it is of too long a standing to be cured easily, But she is still determined on returning to C - to finish this term with Prof Agassiz Your father is very much engaged about the Clay M - persons are very slow paying up their subscriptions, & shew a disinclination to pay to any but himself he rec^d a letter from Mr Bullock of Shelbyville saying he would have to come & collect himself for they would not pay him, & the collections may fall short, would n't that be bad?

So I expect there will be no possible chance for me to leave home for a year to come, There is to be a great hurrah & fuss about laying the corner stone of the Monument, They had better save that expense to pay for the completion of the thing, I would just as soon be any other place than here at the time As it is I must make the best of it, You will be surrounded by the walls of Old Harvard at that time preparing for the great theatre of action & noble daring. We find Miss Higgins quite as entertaining & amusing, in the evenings, She is during the day busily engaged with the Children, she desires to be kindly remembered to you, Your sisters join me in much love to dear brother & son, Kind regards to the Sparks' - Farewell my dear son God bless & preserve you, & return you in safty home again.

Your Devoted Mother

Duncannon Mar 23/65

My dear brother

As I have not written to you for a long time I thought I would write to you. The Spring has come at last the earth will soon be clothed with verdure & the meadows embroidered with flowers the plum & apricots are in bloom The sweet harbingers of Spring The birds have returned; with the school room window open now & then between loud notes of the blackbirds we hear the mild notes of the Dove & the merry notes of the bluebird in the orchard back of the garden.
Lizie has a flock of little chickens I think there are 30 She is very proud of them as they are the first we have

bad. Mr & Mrs Burkley were out here yesterday afternoon to see Miss Higgins. Father & Lily received letters from you to day I think you must have been tired when you got home from your class supper you got back at the hour I get up to practice 5 O'clock is my hour now. When father read your letter mother did not know what you meant she thought that when you spoke of the hundred & twenty five pounder that you meant the cannon I thought you meant Miss Kelly Gauge did you not? Pathe & Lily & Cousin James are gone to the pond to fish there is no one in the house but Mother Miss Higgins & my self I am in the schoolroom every thing is quiet but the alternate scrach of Miss Higgins & my pen except now and then the bleating of lambs

the lowings of herds with the merry whistle of those at work in the garden & something else you can guess comes floating in upon the breeze.

The sun has gone to rest & this beginning to grow dark the stars are beginning to out & the Guineas are doing all they can to make a noise for between them & the blackbirds I can hardly write and it is now so dark I cannot see. They have all come back from fishing Lily will tell you how many they caught. Will Lend Love in which they are joined by your

Affectionate Sister
Ellen Duncan

Mr C H J Duncan jr
Cambridge
Mass

Lexington Saturday 7 o'clock A. M. March
[1857]

My Dear Cousin

I have been thinking that I would write to you for a long time & I have commenced at last I have nothing of interest to communicate— Uncle & cousin E are down at the pond fishing, they want to catch a mess for breakfast— Cousin Mary is in Louisville, she has been there since Tuesday last, she will return this evening— I am going to town to hunt up an acquaintance as I herd he would be there today he is just from Mo— There was som 6 or 8 boys summoned before the faculty, some for fighting & others as witnesses to the fight— I am geting along very well at school & have not had any fights yet— We all have to meet in the chapel every Sabbath at 3½ o'clock P. M. & listen to preaching— We also have orations on Saturdays three have to speak every Sat my time has not come around yet— I am geting along rather slow in my musick, so Miss Ho. says—

all were

well at home when I last heard. but it has been some time since I heard—

I tend to ride around the country next saturday and look at the fine stock—
All of the family are well except Mary Jane & Douglas— There has been a revival among the blacks & several have joined the church—
They have returned from fishing & cous E had all the luck she caught 4 fine ones—
Cousins E & L & Miss Higgins write to you by the same post Miss Higgins lets me enclose my letter in hers—
yours in haste & you must excuse all blots & mistakes & write soon— Your affectionate

cousin Jas. H. Jenkins

Lexington Ky March 28th 57

How can I thank you sufficiently my dear Mr. Duncan for your pleasing message respecting my beloved Eugene independant of the fact of his having rendered himself famous by his poem of the "Sea Serpent", his fascinating qualities make that name peculiarly appropriate to him. And is it not like your own dear self to send me that approximation to a lock of hair off the head of dear Charles. I cannot part with it even to my friend Miss G, and must ask him to let me have another for her. Do you know how matters stand with him in that quarter, is it probable that he will have to take himself off to the Delaware once more to cure his love sick brain (I shant say heart) And now that I am on this subject - will

it be necessary for you to try the Waters of the Delaware or some other Waters to cure you of the same malady; but to continue this list of interrogatives — is that Daguerreotype which was to you so pleasing a companion on our journey out here yet fetched into "thin air" or are your bewitching eyes made dim by gazing on it as I saw you gaze on it, in the Depot at Columbus?

I have no news to tell you as I seldom go anywhere except to Church, and I feel so happy in my daily occupations, that I never think of enquiring about what is going on in the world.

Mr. Sear has not yet paid me his promised visit but he meets me occasionally outside the Church door - and gives me a striking proof of his affection in the shape of a tap on the shoulder and oh! such a squeeze of the hand, sufficient to convince the most sceptical, that the squeeze at least is real, and that he is capable of making an impression - for my hand has on it the mark of his thumb - until the next morning.

We go in to town on Sundays to hear the Lectures at the College Chapel, Dr. Greene is now lecturing

on the "Immortality of the Soul". his discourses, tho' they cannot lay claim to much originality (this subject being nearly exhausted), yet shew him to be a man of considerable talent, and were he a little less opprassive in his delivery would be very pleasing indeed.

I do not like to think of Miss Duncans leaving us so soon, but I would not be selfish enough to wish her deprived of the advantages which a longer stay at Cambridge offers to here merely for the gratification her society affords me.

She is at present with her friends in Louisville

Your father went with her to a Concert given by the Pyne & Harrison troupe. Tuesday evening last, he does not seem to think Miss Pyne so great a star as she is generally considered - they gave a Concert in Lexington on Thursday evening.

Your cousin Miss Timberlake staied here two days she is rather pretty and very pleasing in her manners. Miss Lucy Jacob went to Louisville last Monday with your father and Miss Duncan. She is staying at her sisters. I suppose you are very busy at your studies. you do not fall asleep I

hope at your recitations as you say has been your custom - but I am rather inclined to think that like all geniuses you are apt to say hard things of yourself - and that you are in reality one of the "Mole Snake Club"

I look forward to your next visit with a great deal of pleasure, will you be here in time to attend this "Clay Monument" exhibition?

I trust to your good nature to excuse this long prosy epistle, and with kind regards believe me to remain.

Very truly Yours,

M. D. Higgins

PS Have you seen my Boston friends lately - I feel very much obliged to you for executing my commission so promptly. if you see any of the Indors with you give them my kind regards, do not trouble yourself about that Catalogue.

Lexington Apl 1st 1857

My Dear Son

I omitted to write you on sunday my usual day - as one or two other letters were dispatched about that time - and to avoid your receiving in a back - Your letter acknowledging the receipt of the $150 check came duly to hand on last Saturday being one week from the date of my letter forwarding to you the same being the most expeditious exchange of letters I have known - between this & Cambridge - I addressed to Mr Warren a letter some weeks ago - In which I suggested to him - the Idea of Mass by a subscription among themselves should raise the means of having prepared the Colossal Statue of Mr Clay - and present it to the association - That it would be one ~~one~~ of those graceful and appropriate acts upon the part of Mass so worthy of herself

and made in this instance so entirely suitable remembering the relations that subsisted between the people of that State and the "Great Commoner" for the last 25 years of his life — The unshaken cons=
=tancy and fidelity with which she sup=
=ported her Clay in all the changes of that eventful period of our history Having received no acknowledgement of the letter I have found it miscarried Do me the favor to enquire of Mr Warren whether he has received from me such a letter

Your Sister has just returned from Louisville where she has spent another week — to have the aid of Dr Flints pro=
=fessional services — He thinks her bitter having this visit — used the "bitter of Silver" to touch her throat — I fear that from neglecting the rigid climate of Mass — and her irregularity of living that her health is seriously im=pair=ed — Being better she is anxious to

go on to spend the summer term — and return home — where she will be better taken care of & nursed — And if her health allows she can pursue any studies she may desire under the instruction of masters specially employed — you may look for us about the middle of Apl — I wish she could get some comfortable boarding during her stay that which she has had was pretty hard though I have reluctantly yielded to her return — I am full of apprehension about her health — And for this reason shall never place a Mothers Daughter in a N England boarding School

Some time ago Mary wrote to Mrs Sparks and has recd as yet no reply — What is the matter? Mary thinks Mrs S took some offence at her returning home — If so it is ridiculous — Mary done right and I am sorry she did not do so earlier — It was not the place of Mrs S to attempt to control her — I had written her to come home if she desired — all well & send your dearest love

Your Devoted Father W Z H

your sweet love

Duncannon
April. 4th/67

My dearest Brother

It has been an age since I wrote to you - I have been intending to write ever since my return from Louisville but have been going into town every day so that I have not fulfilled my intentions. I returned from Louisville on last Monday afternoon with Charlie Jacob he went down this morning. I enjoyed my visit to Louisville very much; went down on Tuesday morning (also Lucy Jacob) and I did not return until the following week. My throat and eyes are very much better. I forgot to tell you that cousin Nate received a letter from you while I was in

Louisville. She seemed quite pleased to ~~receive~~ hear from you. I received two letter of Tuesday, one from Lizzie, & the other from Nellie, they both told me of Lee's misfortune, I think he was very foolish to jump off the cars whilst they were in motion. I hope he is not seriously injured.

Do you know whether Mrs Sparks received my letter? she has never answered it. Father thinks she is offended with me. I presume she is. I think I had just as well go back to Mrs Wells - for I shall not be in Cambridge much longer - and I shall be alone.

Thomas Jacob thinks of going to Europe in May and taking Kate Charlie and Lucy if he can arrange his business so as to leave.

Mr Reynolds thinks of sending Kitty to Prof Agassiz next Winter. he is anxious to have her go on

with me but she is not willing.
Mrs Trimble is here she is going
to Paris this evening with Trim
I shall spend to night in Lee-
with Ellen Matthews. & last night
we went into Leg- to the dedication
of the Sayer Institute. I shall
write again on Monday-
I must have this letter short
for it is to be put in the cars
With much love your affect
sister

Mary.

P. S. All send love - also Aunt
Trimble & Trim.

Duncannon April 4th 1857

My dear brother

I would have written last Saturday but sister Ellen wrote and I thought it would not be worth while for both of us to write at the same time and it would not be worth the postage either. So I thought I would write today and let you see how we were all getting along. Mother Father Miss Higgins and sister Mary went in town last night to the dedication of Mr says's school aunt Trimble came out last night and is going down to Paris in the two o clock train to spend her summer with Mrs Arnold. she came up from Louisville yesterday evening. Father wanted her to stay untill Monday and go down in the morning with him but she said that doctor Flint told her she must not get up so early and she is so anxious to see cousin Eliza Arnold

and she said she must go this evening
and Leim Arnold was up here and she is going
with him. sister Mary write to you yesterday
she is going to Cambridge next monday week.
O I will be so sorrow. all the fruit is killed
but the apples. sister Mary is going to town this
evening to stay all night with Ellen Matthews.
I wont have a very long letter. I told you I gave
Father a spectacle case on his birth day he was very
proud of it he showed it every one he knew they
they thought it was very nice. last ~~Friday~~ friday
to catch some but did not catch any. Mother
caught four the next morning Father sister Ellen
and I went down to fish Father caught one
I caught none but had a rough for my breakfast
as I wanted. This will be a very short letter but
I nothing to say so I must say good bye
all send love to you Father Mother sister Mary sister
Ellen and I send a kiss to you your affectionate
sister Lily Dunown

Duncannon
April. 6th/57.

My dearest Brother

I presume this will be my last letter to you before I leave; We think of starting on next Monday afternoon - and hope to be in Cambridge about Thursday of next week. I hope we shall find you in good spirits - We shall stop at the Brattle House - and I presume from there I shall go to Miss Hays - You must thank Miss Hay for her kind invitation I have not written to Lily G— yet, but will before I leave.
I recd - two letters from Cannon last week one from Lizzie and the other from the

"133 - founder". I replied to Lizzie's on Saturday - but have not written to Nellie yet - The "Count" seemes to have deserted her; he has left the civilized regions for the wilds of Canada - where he amuses himself hunting bear. I hope you have called upon Mrs Wells - Dont you think I had just as well go back there toboard (if she will take me) for I shall keep my own provisions - as there is very little for me to eat - I can very conveniently do so, I have come to the conclusion that this is the best mode for me to persue.
My eyes begin to look quite respectable, and not quite so homely as they did. I am writing with a new kind of pen, a real copper, and I think them quite fine.
Father has been to Bourbon

to day, and when he returned home this evening, he said we could not think of starting for the North next week, that he had met a gentleman in the cars who described the North as being very disagreeable at present. A great change has taken place in the weather we had snow and sleet last night, I fear we shall have no fruit - this is the third time the leaves have put out and been killed.

I am trespassing upon one of my rules - namely writing at night - and as I have filled up my paper I shall bid you Good Night, with a love and a kiss to all - With true affection, your devoted sister

Mary.

P. S. Miss Higgins desires to be remembered. remember me to all my friends.

Lexington Apl 5th 1857

My Dear Son

Your letter with one to your Mother Sister Mary & Lely came duly to hand on Friday - of course it was the occasion of great pleasure to the family circle - especially to witness the cheer=ful manner in which you write - that you have visited your friends &c This is as it should be - You do not however my Son - inform me whether your progress in Greek, under the new arrangement is as satisfactory as you hoped for - and whether or not you anticipa=ted - that it would interpose any obstacle to your graduation - Your Mathematicks seems to be harder to you than heretofore - I hope you solved the problem, that bothered you so much as to cut short my letter - You should bear in mind that those difficulties in the higher Mathematicks - are admirable as a mental discipline - even if they should never be of any practical use and when you master them - it only qualifies you so much the better to master other difficulties in future - ~~to~~ it improves your powers of investigation - and that power of the mind which enables you to abstract ~~it~~ and concentrate it upon one

one subject - your capacity for investigation is thereby greatly improved - In this view I consider it of the first importance - for mental disipline

That you make a scholler - a thorough scholler - (not a mere smatterer) is the wish anxious wish of my heart - my highest ambition - is, my dear Lou - that you alone the bearer of my name - should deserve all that consideration - which springs from high mental cultivation & unsullied purity of character & honor - The period of your college life will soon roll by - and how happy will be the reflection, that you have fully improved your opportunities, and return to the bosom of your family - the object of our fondest love and highest hopes - which you you must not disappoint

The contractor is rapidly progressing with the monument - the foundation will be ready in time for the ceremonies of the 4th of July next - which promises to be one of the most imposing & interesting that has ever taken place in the west It occupies much of my time & will continue to do so until its completion - I wish it was all past - as I necessarily neglect my own affairs - But I am in it & shall carry

it through — I trust to the satisfaction of the Country

We continue well satisfied with Mrs Higgins I hope to be able to keep her for several years I think she is satisfied and cheerful — The Children are making fine progress with her — I will say to you that Lily If she lives — is to make the scholler among your sisters — her habits of application are to day better than either of them — She has in a remarkable degree to power commanding her attention or withdrawing it from all other matters and concentrating it upon her book — This power alone will give her the superiority — In this particular she is a remarkable child

We had last night a fine rain, it has already made its impression upon the grass & foliage — Spring is I think upon us at last though we have lost all the fruit which is a sad affair — having had some severe cold weather within the last 10 days — I found my Canada Coat very comfortable — even since the 1st of Apl — But I hope Spring is fairly upon us now — Our fishing has been poor — we have had a half dos trials — little or no success I think the rascals have found out some way of taking them at night — they are scarce

All send your much love

Your devoted father

St. T. Duncan

Duncannon
Apr 16th, 57

My very dear Son

Your ever welcome letters have been duly received, It is truly gratifying to learn that you are in good health & spirits & so comfortably located in regard to your room, but not less gratified that you are getting on in your studies to your satisfaction, I trust that your attainments will do you honor, & whatever honor is conferred on you, you will justly merit, without favor

or artifice, so that whatever is awarded you, your conscience will say it is just, It is not atal incompatible modesty to value ourselves & to feel conscious of what is due us, every one should know & value themselves, tho we are apt to think of ourselves better than others. but before the tribunal of conscience we will be very sure to decide with truth & justice, This is the season for the developement of intellect & cultivation of the heart, be assiduous in the discharge of those duties & you will

reap your reward on earth
& in heaven, so may it be.
Your dear father & sister
left us on yesterday (wednesday)
in the 6 o'clock A. M. train
for Cambridge where they
hope to be on friday evening
We are exceedingly lonely we
miss them so much you
can't imagine what a
doleful looking set we
all are, The weather is
bright but very cold real
cold, we have had rain
sleet & snow, upon the trees
in bloom all vegitation
is killed & the trees look
like winter, there is a
slim prospect for fruit.

Take good care of your health all send much love
Should the second
bloom come we could
then calculate on having
Me are at present
planning to pass our summer
in the Rural District of
Boston, Pa will tell you
all about it, Mary's Throat &
lungs are much better, I hope
that she will take good
care & continue to improve
in her health, she was so
anxious to return & finish
this term, as it is to be the
last, & I hope it will not be
disadvantageous to her, but
the contrary, although it is
only a few weeks, it is better
than not at all, to morrow is
the day to hear from you

Mother
Mary
Sarah
Mary
Sarah

Duncannon
april 24th 1854

My dear brother

I have just come in from a stroll after wild flowers the pastures is covered with them they look so pretty. I went as far as the gate in the carriage and then took Julia with me to get wild flowers I got a great big bunch. aunt Mary Hall Miss Higgins & sister Ellen went in to the Dentist aunt Mary went to see Mr Speake Miss Higgins had two teeth pulled wednesday when sister Ellen went to Dr Talbert she got Dr Stone to pull two teeth she did not scream a tall Mr & Mrs Bullock & two of the young Ladies of Walnut Hill Mr & Mrs Bullock came in to Dr Talbert to get a set of teeth & the two young Ladies went to Dr Stone one of them had two teeth & the othee had one one of them screamed so loud that she would nearly deafen you

Miss Higgins said it was all nonsence
to scream so I did not think it nonsence
if it had have been me I would have
screamed so loud that every body in
town would have heard me Dr Stone
wanted to pull one of mine out but I
would not let him. Mother got a
paper from you and you said you had not
got a letter from home for ten days Mother
has written Sister Elle & Cousin James has
written & I have written to you every
week except last Friday and then
I wrote to sister Mary. Miss Higgins
got a letter from you last week she
was sick in bed and she got up that
evening and came down to supper she is
not quite well yet She had a cold
when she had her teeth pulled and
Mother thought it made her cold worse
she went to the Dentist room and
it was so warm and she did not take her
Cloak off and Mother thought it gave it

gave it to her she is a great deal better
I have a cold my self. I will have to
bring my letter to a close all send
love to you your aff sister Lizzy D

Lexington Friday April 23rd/57

Dear Henry

Yours of 10th inst was received last Saturday and I was very glad to receive it for I receive very few letters I belive winter has broke at last but we have had winter all this month up to 22nd snowing and raining every day or two. We have been very lonesom since uncle and Cousin Mary left or I have at least and if it was not for cousin L. I do not know what I would do for she makes me carry her around which is a great pleasure to me.

I saw on yesterday the finest lot of beef cattle I ever saw. There was 120 that averaged over 2000# each, brought $104.00 per head they were on the to N. Y. To day I rode out to the cemetery I think it is a beautiful place.

The contractor is geting along with the Clay Monument very fast he has the foundation dug out to solid rock, about 14ft deep and has commenced filling up with fine rock.

Miss Higgins is just recovering from a short spell of sickness she is at the piano trying some new pieces of music — She says she intends to write to you one of these days — I have quit music because I thought I never would play well and Miss H. says has a poor opinion of any one that commences a thing and gives it up — But I do non intend to give up things I commence that I think of importance —
Aunt has just received a letter from you stating the safe arrival of Uncle and cousin and I am glad to hear that they arrived safe —
It is quite pleasant this evening and I believe I will try my luck at fishing —
I dont know that I'll ever get into a fight but if I do I will whip the one that crosses me by main force and awkwardness that is if I dont get whiped myself — cousin E. sends her love to you — my love to cousin Mary —
You must excuse bad spelling &c

Yours &c
James H Jenkins

Langton Sunday

Dear Henry

Duncannon
Apr 29th 1857

My very dear Son

Your letter informing me of the safe arrival of father & sister was a great relief as I had not heard a syllable of them since they left, it is a very great satisfaction to know how you are & how you are getting along, What is the reason that you did not dine with your father & sister? as he was only to remain so short a time one would presume you would be with him all the time. I regret that you have

not received our letters, for we have all written to you, It is not so pleasant to feel that we are neglected, but be assured such is not the fact, for you are one of the topics of conversation whenever we gather together, & of our thoughts when alone. Oh! we shall be so happy when you & M are once more safely lodged at home. I hope Mary will get on to her satisfaction & derive as much information as she expected, The time is so short for her to remain one can not reasonably calculate on any thing

extraordinary particularly as her eyes & throat are out of health. My private opinion is that she should have remained at home until her health was entirely restored, but she would not consent to such a determination, & was willing to try the experiment, so I trust that she will not have cause to regret it. See that she does not expose herself to the night air & late hours artificial light is very injurious, moderate exercise & wholesome food, such as is nourishing & easily digested, the diet she has formally had, or rather none at all

much better for the last few days her appetite & health are greatly improved, all very much well & cheerful. Give my kind regards to your friends & your mother

well surely destroy her health. proper attention to this matter is very important to her restoration to perfect health. The weather has been very wintery for several weeks vegetation has been destroyed three times, it has started once more, & for the two last days the trees are becoming quite green & make some shade, there is very little prospect for fruit which is a source of much regret, I shall look for your father from this time daily. Miss W- has not been well since your sister left, she wishes M was her every day, she seems to be

Lexington May 4th 1857

My Dear Son

I arrived home on the ~~second~~ first inst, well with a pleasant trip - having made ~~made~~ all all my connections to Cincinnati - where I rested and laid over one night & to the morning train my stay in N York was longer than I expected the visit was very agreeable - I partook of the hospitality of several gentlemen - Mr Fish (Ex Senator) Mr Chas M Leupp - Dr Sayer - who took violent possession of me - going to the N York Hotel and ordering my Baggage to his house - where I spent 3 days & never more cordially & hospitable entertained - I dined one day with Mrs Gustin upon whom you made quite a flattering impression & you must never fail to call upon her when you happen in N York - I was invited to spend a day at the country seat of Mr Sheppard Knapp - which I was compelled to decline - During my stay I revived the interest for the Clay Monument - Mr Fish Mr Leupp Mr Knapp - each agreed to devote a day or two to getting contributions - and with their high personal position & influence I have no doubt will do something handsome - I had omitted to name 2 gentlemen from whom

I recommend particular attentions to James & Mr Erastus Brooks - Editors of the N York Express

I shall be much occupied for a time in preparations for the arrangements and ceremonies, of laying the Corner Stone of the Monument - which promises to be a magnificent affair

While in N York I purchased a check drawn by Mr Punnett Cash of the Bank of America N York - upon Merchants Bank of Boston for $100 & intended to send you from there But owing my being occupied all the time I neglected it - But now enclose you - It is payable to your order

While in N York - I called early after my arrival upon Mrs Greenough & regretted that she was out - so that I failed to see her - I left my Card for her - with a playful Memorandum on the Back, expressing my serious disappointment & regret - which I should endeavour to bear as well as I could - But hearing nothing from her - or her friend at whose house she stood, I concluded to she left soon after for home

During my absence from home my agent purchased for me 115 head of Corn fed Cattle at a favorable price 4$ per hundred - Cash - I shall be able sell them from grass at

a proffit of from 20 to 25$ by the 1st of July, this purchase bring up my stock of Beef Cattle to something over 300 – I shall add another 100 to the lot this month If I can get them on favorable terms

A great deal of rain has fallen here making the ground too wet to plant corn as yet – It is high time it was in – To day is so very rainy and wet that I did not go to Paris this morning & I have taken my seat to rid my table of the correspondence that has accumulated during my absence

Say to my dear Mary that one letter has been rec'd from her by her Mother – she must not omit to write fully once a week & give us all particulars of her health – her throat and eyes, how do they do? Are they improving?

While I am writing you this letter Miss Higgins & Ella are – "Ding Donging" to our the piano – beating time & counting 1 2 3 – of course to my great delight

With my best respects to Mr & Mrs Sparks to Miss Fay her Sister Mrs Greenough & daughter tender all love and a kiss to my dear Mary

I remain

Your Devoted Father

H. T. Duncan

I purchased in N.Y. a spendid enameled Geneva made watch - for your Mother & I think - ~~I~~ a Swap is proposed with Mary when she "comes home - If so Mary is to get greatly the better of the trade

H T L

Lexington, Ky
May 3d 1857

My dear Mr. Duncan,

Need I say that it gave me great pleasure to hear from you, and to learn that your young ideas are so rapidly shooting forth, and likely to expand into a tree of knowledge.

The learned Editors in these parts seem to be amusing themselves with speculations on the probabilities, and improbabilities

of one having a grand smash in June, but as nothing with a tail to it, is not much to encounter, I am inclined to think that old Mother Earth will be able to stand the shock: at the worst it is only making over exit in railway style; so I do not see why they should bugge themselves about it.

I am sorry to hear that poor Charles is so unhappily situated. You ought to give him a lesson in the art of forgetting.

You say you do not go to Boston. What is the reason? Have you grown more serious, or are you

so absorbed in your studies as to render intercourse with the outer world distasteful to you? Now tho' I am one of the serious kind, and not given to light amusements, yet I am of opinion, that a little recreation would be of great benefit to you, and in fact necessary, after your extraordinary mental exertions.

Your father informs us that you have received an addition to your beauty, in the shape of a charming ebony colored moustache, which you he says on Militaire; now perhaps this is the reason why you have retired into private life,

knowing how irresistibly beautiful you have become, in the kindness of your heart you resolved to leave no broken hearts in Boston. Well! as we Kentuckians are a hardier race I hope your good nature will not lead you to dispense with the charming addition until we can form an estimate of the mischief you have done, and are likely to do.

Thalberg is to give a Concert here on the twelfth of this month, I believe in the New Theatre. I understand, they have engaged a good Stock-Company of Actors, so you see how gay

May 3, 1857

or rather how wicked, we are becoming in these parts.

You must feel very happy at having Miss Duncan with you again, we miss her very much here.

We have had miserable weather here lately. Damp and cloudy but at the same time very warm. Your father says he encountered quite a snow storm in Boston.

You must by this time no doubt, be tired of this foolish epistle, so I shall conclude with kind regards to your dear Miss D.

Believe me to remain
Truly Your's
M. D. Higgins

Duncannon
May 11th 1857

My precious Son

Another week has elapsed which brings the alloted time to commence with my dear absent ones, We are alone again your father left us on saturday for Ills. he designs being back on the 20th the day on which the General Assembly meet in Lexington, it is considered a difficult matter how they will be entertained, as the races come off at the same time &

the Hotels & Boarding houses
are usually crowded with
them, the hack & omnibusses
all engaged for the race
to-morrow evening Halburg's
concert comes off in Lex-
Mrs Flint, Mrs Arnold with
her two sons, Miss Davis &
Miss Elliott are to be here,
how we are all to get in is
a matter not easily managed
for we have only the carriage
& buggy, the small carriage
nags have colts, there are a
beautiful lot of colts this
season, The season is a
month behind, all agricultu-
-ral persuits are quite in

arrears, corn planting has just commenced,

As there is nothing of importance to communicate & I am desirous to send this in this morning to the mail I must cut it short, with much love to you & Mr. God bless you farewell Your affectionate

Mother

P.S My dear son I have a request to make of you. that is to read the Book of Job. the writing & teachings are most sublime, I hope ~~that~~ you will by the attentive perusal of this

grand Book be induced to commence at Genesis and go on to Revelation, be assured that an attentive perusal will compensate you for all the time employed at it, there is little reading more advantagous than this neglected volumn, do I beseech you be persuaded to heed my request, Ever Your devoted

Mother

Lexington May 18th 1857

My Dear Lou

I have just returned from Illinois and find your letters at home

My visit was too hurried - I found the weather very inclement & rainy - very backward in getting in the Corn crop - only about 100 acres planted - when there should have been in - 300 at least - about 80 acres of wheat looking very well - the ballance indifferent - The season is so far advanced, that I think we shall not get in more than 250 or 300 acres of Corn in - we shall then commence plowing for wheat & Barley and get in from 2 to 300 acres ~~of~~ while I was with the Dr he got a letter from Miss M E Craig - inviting him to her wedding on the 2d of June - ~~and~~ If he finishes his Corn crop by that time he will be in, upon this interesting occasion - The weather here is cold & chilly - decidedly the most backward spring I have ever known - All is bustle to accomodate the Genl Assembly here this week - we shall be perfectly overrun with these Saints, your mother will fill her house with them So we shall have a time of it - I hoped to have had a letter from my Dear Mary before this a kiss & much love to her -

Your Devoted Father
A T Dunnem

Say to Miss Greenough – that I regretted not seeing her – I made the effort – and if her friend called at the hotel – I was not aware of it – though they are very negligent at the hotel about such messages – and hearing nothing from her I took for granted she had left – In the card I left for her – I think I mentioned I was at the Holy Hotel – make to her my warmest regards

So soon as Nickliff prints my letters of invitations which will be in a day or two I will send you some in blank to fill up & address to gentlemen in your vicinity

I shall write to Mr Sparks & Silsbee special letters of invitation to my house

I regretted my absence in Ellmore while Mr Everett was here – to deliver his Washington Speech – I should have been pleased to offer him the civilities of my house

Duncannon
May 14th 54

My dear brother

Sister Ellen &

I did not go to the concert
Tuesday the Tickets were
so high two dollars a piece
and Mother thought that
two dollars was too much for
me to go to a concert so I
think it was too much too
but I would like to have
gone very much, Cousin
Eliza Arnold, Rebecca Daves, Mary
Elliott, Molly Arnold,
Trimble & Frank all of
them went to Shalberg's
Concert, Cousin Nannie
did not go, I will send you the

program of the concert.
Mr Everett will lecture in Lexington this evening at the Medical Hall.
Cousin Nannie Flint is going with Mother to hear him Cousin James sister Ellen and I are also going, Father has gone to Illinois to see Dr Jenkins he wanted to get back by the time the General Assembly meet, There is considerable uneasiness for fear they will not be accommodated because the races come off at the same time,
this is my birth day

I arose quite late this morning for I had head ache, Every thing is looking so beautiful and the birds singing so gaily in the trees every thing seems meant to make us happy, we have the most beautiful wild flowers I think the fairies cant excel them isn't it a pity that the comet is comeing to burn it up? but I suppose you do not fear any thing of the sort I do not. Mother received your letter written the 2th of may yester-day, all send love to you and sister your aff sister Lily D

[Early May? 1857]

Duncannon

O my precious son

Your letter just received, has grieved me very much, the state of mind you are in is much to be deplored, cast away from you those platonic theories of the dark ~~age~~ ages, let me beg & entreat you to take the Book of books for your study & learn of a divine teacher, seek for that rest & happiness which is to be found alone in an immortal state in the presence of Jesus our Savior O! my son if I could hear that you ~~had~~ found the

peace & joy that cometh
down from above how hap-
-py I should be & you also
There was communion in
our church on last sabbath
& a number were added &
among them Howard Woolley
I thought if that were you how
joyful it would have been
When we devote our youth
to God.
'Tis pleasing in his eyes.
A flower when offered in the bud
Is no vain sacrifice.
In reference to your father's
address to you, there is not
the slightest cause for
you to take exception

nothing is more common than for persons to use the same to younger ones, as conclusive evidence to me, is that your father seems delighted with his visit, & not expressed any dissatisfaction whatever I have not shown your letter to him, for he has so much to attend to, letters & business have accumulated to keep him busy, a letter from Dr Jenkins desiring his presence in Ills early this month If he were to see it the same scene would be acted over & probably worse Now that your father's confidence is restored & all

Do hope on & press forward in the line of duty & will be rewarded by God's blessing & your affect. Mother

ssumed happy clouds have
ssiden, such is life, Do try
conquer your wayward fancy
Make a hero of yourself, "He
that conqueth his spirit is great
ier than he that taketh a
city." I do wish you were
through college & ready to
receive your father or assist
him in business, the stubborn
realities of life would soon
be forced upon you. If you
could only be with us, I very
much regret that you & Mary
never went to N.E. but vain
regrets & gloomy forbodings
will not do to indulge & give up
to. "Every cloud has a silver lin
ing And He who made it knows
when to turn it out."

Lexington May 2nd 1857

My Dear Son

I send you by this mail a pack=age of letters of invitation – to which you will call upon Mr G. W. Warren with & advise with him – as to the persons they shall be directed to – I have sent by this – with a few notes letters to each of them – One to Mr Sparks Mr Silsbee Mr Everett & Mr Warren – The blanks sent you can with the aid of Mr Warren direct them to some of your notables – include among them the Gentlemen of the press

I have requested Mr Silsbee if he comes out to have the goodness – to bring out your Sister with him – As I shall be greatly gratified to have her at home at home on the 4th – they had letters sent so as to be here in advance of the crowd – several days before the 4th

If any of the Boston Military Com=panies shall be disposed to come out you can direct a special letter of invitation to them & sign the names of the Directory to Et Confer with Mr Warren on this subject

Yr devoted Father

(In great haste)

H. T. Duncan

Duncannon
May 19th 1857

Oh! my dear don what have you charged me with! A mother that has labored & prayed & desired the utmost happiness for her children; that she is the fatal rock that has wrecked your hope of bliss, spread ruin & desolation around It is really too intolerable for me to think of, & almost impels me to say, go, do as you will I'm indifferent to all that concerns you, but no, no the tender parent can never be so unfeeling, & the heart will still yearn after the dear object with the greatest solicitude until death which alone can disolve the tie, Where is your independence & courage fled? that you are conquered by a weak woman. She manifests a heroism, worthy of a man, she is not lost to friends or society, but gay

& happy, enjoying life, notwithstanding the follies of others. It is too preposterous for any one to go mourning around in such a style, Let me beg of you to consider before you indulge in such melancholey thins, Are you in a condi-tion to enter into so serious a state? Is your education completed with a degree of credit to yourself & others? Your profession obtained? Have you the means of a livlihood? Rest assu-ed that no woman come to the years of discretion will accept any one without the preceding qualifications unless he has expectations, but which are not always realized, Do be per-suaded to be patient & secure a proper standing & estimation with society & the proper one will certainly be at hand, "He that hath no rule over his own spirit is like a city that is broken down & without walls."

This gloomy state of mind that you are in distresses me greatly & most gladly would I do everything in season to relieve it, But it does seem so unaccountable that you could be carried away from the course which is calculated to secure position & character, All your father's anticipations seem to be centered in you, so I must be the scape goat in this matter & bear all the blame & censure, For it will not do to mention this affair to him at this time, he is so occupied with one thing & another, & so much to harass & vex him, & patience with him does not increase with years, & a father has to be honored, I agree with you that love is one of the greatest virtues One that would make this world an Eden, but not to idolize one object. Supreme love is for One alone, this one the Lord of Lords & King of Kings

Heaven is love, but love is not
always heaven, for instance ourself
let me beg of you to lay aside such
reading as that which vitiates & de
stroys the taste for all that which
is pure & holy, or even for practical
life, let me prevail on you to turn
to the Book of books, it is the only
basis of solid virtue, there is the
strength & light, to support & direct
through this dark world, there
alone is it to be found, May you be
so fortunate as to perceive & appreciate
its true value, God bless you my
precious son & keep you from all
evil, Communicate freely with
your sister it will relieve the o're
burdened heart, she will counsel
you kindly & no doubt advise you
wisely, I have been compelled thus
to write you, for I am so oppressed
with my feelings, & no mortal to
speak to for relief, May you have a
pleasant time in access & accept your mother
enjoyment the coming Winter, Love to Mr. & all
Your affect. Mother

Duncannon
May 25th '67

My very dear Don

Time's solemn march has brought another week to a swift close, Oh! if we could look by faith to that clime where bliss knows no end! where breaks one immortal day! The meeting of the General Assembly must be the apology for not writing last week altho' I am not much engaged by the company we have, as they only come out in the evening & go in immediately after breakfast, indeed it is exceedingly agreeable to

have them, it breakes up the monotony of our usual routine really ~~It~~ is really a refreshing event to all, none seem to enjoy the company more than Miss Higgins, she is quite well & in better spirits than she has been since M left us Our company is exceedingly pleasent. & you can judge when I name the persons, first Mr McKenon, he enquired most kindly for each of you, Miss H- likes him so much, then there's Dr Prime & son editor of the New York Observer, very interesting persons his son is about your age &

just about Ell's height, but one of the most manly & intel-ligent fellows you ever met & the best of all pious. then a Mr Spear who has been a miss-ionary to China the Sandwich Islands & lastly from California The house of this Assembly has been so crowded that we have not been able to get in to see them, it is said to be the largest Assy that has ever met, your father says it is the finest looking body of men he ever saw, he goes in regularly, Mrs McKee dines those that we sleep, Your father is very much interested, this is the first day he has dined

at home since the body
met save Sunday, & he would
not have been out now,
had it not have been to let
us know that one of the guns
was to go off this afternoon
that we should like to hear
but it is so warm & dusty
that I have declined to go,
& am communing with
you which is a duty &
pleasure, we rec'd your
usual letter last friday,
Lily one from M to day
It seems to be a very great
& deeply deplored result of
the Boat race, as the Har
vard boat has been victor
so long it seems only fair

May 25, 1857

play for the other to win the day once, by this they are shewn that they are not invincible, & thereby become too proud & arrogant, The Phrenological chart has been studied by Miss Higgins & your father, I presume that he will give his views to you in his next letter, but that will be after the adjournment of the Assby, he is quite taken up with the strangers, there are a great number of visitors, ladies & gentlemen, Lexington st. looks like ~~a~~ in miniature Broadway, there are so many persons & vehicles passing

Levi died suddenly this morning, he has been very much indisposed all winter & spring, still he was walk-ing about his room, not confined to his bed, it is thought to have been disease of the heart. Dr Chambers of Philadelphia died suddenly yesterday, without any previous indisposition, a despatch an-nounced it this forenoon to his two daughters & son who were attending the Ass.ly they were to have passed the day with me i.e. the ladies one is the wife of Judge Charswood, who is a mem

-ber of this body. They all started off in the first train that left. How uncertain is life! & still how unprepared we sport along thinking all mortal but ourself! —
Mary writes that her throat & eyes are better which is truly pleasing. What do you think of the case? Does she look any better? The poor meager diet she gets, or rather none at all, will ruin her constitution & health if it persisted in, I do most anxiously wish there could some better arrangement made, the idea of paying 50 cents a meal for naught

It is really too bad!!!
Lucy Jacob has been very
ill, but is better, owing
to her indisposition the
European trip has been
retarded, They all start
as soon as her health
will permit, Mary Lafon
is going about again she
dined at Mrs McKee's on
to day, Young Prime thinks
she is very pretty. Miss
Jenny from Pittsburg is
staying with Mrs McK. She
is one of Mattie's particular
friends, Mr Jones & Mattie
are on a visit at this time
Good-bye God bless you
Your aff^t Mother

P.S. All send much love to each of you

Ley May 29th 1857

My Dear Son

Enclosed I send you your invitations to Miss Craigs wedding though too late for acceptance

I have not written you my Dear Son for upwards of a week, this is owing to my full occupation in writing letters and preparing for 4th of July ceremonies - I have every thing to overlook, to see that my committees do their duty - In addition to this - we have a house full of company, in attendance upon the Legal Assembly - to wit your old friend - Mr Jas McKearan Dr Paine of N Y Editor of the Observer (religious paper) the first ablest paper on the continent - His son young Paine

son of Dr Prime — who is about your age — a youth of great promise about 20 years of age. He is here as the correspondent of the Evangelist New York Times — & Journal of Commerce a youth of great promise —
Dr Stratton of Natchez — introduced by letter from Dr S Duncan is a gentleman of fine talents and manners — also the Revd Mr Spear who has been for 14 years — missionary to China — of course his great knowledge of facts relating to that interesting portion of the world makes him a man of great interest & his conversations are, exceedingly instructive

So much concerning my dear son — my movements engagements — and my cattle in

gagements — having that to attend to, I sold this week 150 head at 5¢ per head live weight — which will I think ~~are~~ produce me 70¢ a head at least. They are to be delivered the 25th of June when they will be weighed

I called upon Miss Craig this morning & she informed me that Dr Jenkins had written her that he would be here on Tuesday next — to attend her wedding — So the Dr is anxious to come, I fear that he will not have finished his corn planting

Yourself & Sister are remembered at the family altar — by our Clerical friend morning & evening — Levi died this week

All join in much love to yourself & Sister — Yr Devoted Father

H. T. Duncan

Duncannon May 30-54

My dear Brother,

I received your letter yesterday but delayed answering it until to day. I went down to fish some yesterday, and caught four little Tobacco boxes, Cousin James caught five yesterday afternoon, Father and Cousin James went down again this morning and caught thirty fish Cousin James and Hence went down protay evening and caught two large fish weiging over a pound and a foot long. I will now tell you the gentlemen

that are staying here
there is Mr McKenzon
Dr. Prime Editor of the
New York observer and his
son Dr Fleaton of Natchez
Mr Prime jun. sister Ellen
I went out riding this
morning we went nearly
as far as Bryant station
but it looked cloudy and
we come back we enjoyed
it very much.
We are all including
Dr Prime and his son
Miss Higgins are
invited to Miss Mary
Ellen Craig's wedding
which comes off on Tuesday
next at nine o Clock

P.S. I expect there will be a great many at it. I am sorry to here that the weather is so bad at Cambridge it is delightful here the flowers are beginning to blow in the garden there is a little fruit but not much Father says we will have strawberries tomorrow. it delights me to think it will be so short a time before we meet again. love to all your aff't sister Lily Duncan P.S. Miss Higgins say that

she wrote to you some
weeks ago and has not got
an answer she has been quite
ill but is well now