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DESCRIPTION OF REPRODUCED ITEM:

Elizabeth Huntington. ALS to Frederic Dan Huntington. In: Porter-Phelps-Huntington Family Papers (box 12, folder 8).

that its approach may give us no anxiety - write
often to enliven our dullness - and make glad
the heart of your affectionate mother Elizabeth

Tuesday morning - I have not yet seen the Monthly
Miscellany but intend to read for it soon, and let them
have the reading of the W. M. - I should like to see
if the Whitman's letter to a friend.

D. Huntington & Co.

North Hadley

March 23rd

Mr. Fred. D. Huntington

Cambridge
Ms.

Elm Valley March 22 - 1841 -

My dear Frederic,

Yours of the 11th came to hand a week ago
last Saturday evening - and a hearty welcome it found.
Your description of your ride in the stage coach was quite
amusing - you have a strange faculty of turning the
disagreeable into the ridiculous, and thus instead of a
fret, you have a laugh.

The long-expected furniture has at length arrived, and
the little parlour is fitted up in very pretty style.
Last Wednesday just a month from the time of the
marriage, they turned their backs upon us, and set
up an establishment of their own. The next day
being Theodore's birthday, we female women, that is,
three Elizabeths and one Bessie made the carpet
for the said parlour, and the two lords of the crea-
tion helped to put it down. Mrs. had Mrs. T. G. insisted
as it was her husband's birthday, that we should all
drink tea in her room, with Mr. Fisher also; and
some person remarked during the repast, that we only
needed Edward and yourself to make the ^{enjoyment of the} circle complete.
The evening sacrifice was also offered there and a hymn
sang, which I could not but regard as a consecrating service.
I feel a sort of reverence for that room, it is that which
my father and mother occupied from the time of their
marriage to the time of his death; and it is pleasant to
indulge the thought, that many of the blessings bestowed on me

and my children, were the fruit of earnest and devout prayer offered within those walls.

Yesterday the two families all attended worship at 2 P.M. - excepting myself and Currier. I spent an hour or two in looking over some of the letters which were written about the time of our dear father's death, by William and our dear Whiting, also some of our dear Mary's letters. I seem almost to live over those scenes ^{again} - enjoying the animating hope of a blessed reunion, while weeping over the memory of their trials, sufferings and early departures. Suffering seems to be a necessary ingredient in the Christian's portion.

"What son is he whom the Father chasteneth not?" Even the "Captain of our Salvation was made perfect thro' suffering". So the sufferings which we have witnessed in our friends who have left us, and which wrung our hearts with anguish, and even now at times fill our hearts with grief, may have been the necessary instruments of preparing them for the pure service of Heaven. - And we too must be accountable for our use of these afflictions. The Lord helps us to make improvement, under all the dealings of his hand!

Mr. Fisher has been with us a week today. He talks sometimes of purchasing a place, and sending for his family the coming summer, at other times he speaks of going back and staying a year or two. - His pecuniary affairs I suppose obliged him to come at this time. Edward just walked at us a week ago last Saturday, he came a little before sunset. The fact, was on his return from Deerfield, whither he had been to escort his admired Helen home. After dining at Northampton with Charles he walked over to see us: as he thought he must be at home to attend meeting on the Sabbath, he and

Edward were now at four, and proceeded with a horse

sleigh to South-Hadley - from whence Theodore returned before eight in season for breakfast.

Perhaps you would like to know that we had a visit from Abel. - About the time Theodore wrote you, Theophilus volunteered to go after Elizabeth's furniture. On Thursday he set out with old Poan in a pack-wagon, reached Mrs. Sumner's about nine in the evening, found that Abel had prepared to start the next morning, and was inclined to come on. They accordingly set out each in a wagon, and came as far as Palmer where they lodged. The next morning they were in the midst of a violent snow storm, and after trying in vain to drag their wheels thro' the snow, they left their loads a few miles beyond Belchertown, and mounting each their horse, rode on in face of the storm.

They arrived about four o'clock, much to our relief. On Monday morning, the two brothers with Abel set off again, with the two horse sled - and succeeded in landing their load, and their wagon, before eight in safety. Charles is better, he attended court at Greenfield last week. This afternoon Mariann Charlotte and Susan called here. I gave your message to the former, but she dare not yet apply to herself the epithet of "good". - Will you believe it? - the west street have withdrawn from the other party, and are to hold their first meeting in the Academy the next Sabbath. Mrs. Charles Hatchcock seems to be declining - her friends fear her complaint is the consumption. - How often is death bro't to our minds - may we so regard it ever,