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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).

Saturday evening - your father and mother drank tea at brother's last evening - Mr. and Mrs. Thurston from Northampton were there - she enquired very kindly after you - Eliza Judson said she had been wishing for a private opportunity to send you a letter, but was afraid she should not have time to write as she had so much to do - I told her that as you were coming home so soon it would be of little consequence - Dear with our very dear Foderic, while I entreat you to drop this unless it is of not mischievous correspondence - It gives me pain, and will

D. Huntington P.M.

Free

North Hadley
Decem^r 6th 1840

Mr. Foderic J. Huntington

Cambridge

M

if continued, involve you in trouble and regret, if it has not already - your only safe course is to desist entirely from writing to her. Your sister wishes you to cut out the pattern of a square letter which Mary made for you before commencement and enclose it in a letter soon. The dove wishes you to write him without delay -

Elm Valley Nov. 30th 1840 - Monday
afternoon -

My dear Foderic,

Thanksgiving, the season which in childhood and youth is anticipated with such thrilling interest, has passed away. My own feelings, blunted by long use, by disappointed hopes, by affliction, by the experience of the unsatisfying nature of every worldly enjoyment and by the infirmities and weaknesses of old age, have long since ceased to be excited by these occasions. My chief and most earnest desire is, that I may finish my course, if not with joy, yet at least in peace; and the things of time appear as nothing in comparison of the well being of the soul in the future life.

Our gathering at this festival commenced on the afternoon of Wednesday. Charles and his family (excepting Fanny who had been here several days) came about 4 o'clock, and Theophilus and Eliza and Edward very soon after. At the usual time the chicken pie was introduced, with its lesser companions, which furnished employment for an hour or more. The evening passed away very agreeably. Many interesting topics were introduced, among others the propriety of a minister attending whist parties was discussed. It was mentioned that Mr. Dwight had lately accepted an invitation of this kind, and played himself. I believe it was the unanimous opinion of all present that it is not proper nor agreeable to the ideas we have formed of the clerical character. It seems that

Mr. Apthorp has become a constant attendant on Mr. Dwigts ministry, and professes a sincere attachment to him. Now the question is whether Mr. Dwight by his fondness for music, his relish for worldly amusements, and his public teachings which encourage all these things, has really elevated the christian character of Mr. Apthorp, or whether he has trod down the requirements of religion to suit the taste of those who are quite willing to be conformed to this world.

For myself I sincerely wish that Mr. D. had some other employment, more compatible with his strange notions, than preaching the glorious gospel of Jesus Christ, which enjoins indifference to the world, and a heavenly conversation.

Yesterday we worshipped at N. H., had the pleasure of hearing your friend Blapp read two sermons of Doct. Channing and prayers by Mr. Furness. It was really a time of refreshing to me. Mr. Blapp is a very good reader as you know, and his appearance in the pulpit is very respectable.

Today and Saturday Edward was very busy in adjusting his pecuniary affairs - and by the help of some unexpected arrangements he finds himself in much better circumstances than three months ago, he would have expected. he left us in the afternoon of Saturday and went to Northampton, drank tea with Apthorp lodg'd at Charles's and breakfasted, after which he went on intending to hear Mr. Condit ^{in the morning} and attend at Bishop's ^{in the afternoon}.

Do you know what a commotion there is in the north part of our house? tearing down and building up. It seems the old bed room, which you took so much comfort in last summer as a study ^{and wardrobe}, is to be transformed into a sort of keeping-room, sitting-room,

I must earnestly desire for him a building of his own house not made with hands eternal in the heavens - may we all at length be permitted to occupy some humble place among the redeemed - where finding our brethren and beloved ones, we may with affectionate wishes direct them.

Dining-room, parlour, or whatever you chuse to call it. Mr. A. soon began his operations this morning. The closets are taken away, the old entry doors closed up, and the closet door used as the entrance into the room.

Theodore intends to make quick work of this business. What strange things happen! every thing paper away, nothing is enduring but the favour of God - goodness, purity, is the only inheritance which will be lasting and satisfying.

Wednesday I went with Bathia to Northampton - call'd at Charles's - arriv'd Fanny home got home between one and two without freezing - saw some ice in the river which seems to portend the building of the heart's bridge. I forgot to tell you, that perhaps you know before this time, that Mr. Dwight left last Friday, expecting to be gone three sabbaths.

Another blunder - after having pass'd a pleasant evening with Charles and his family you might have thought they stay'd all night, and so they did; the snow was falling quite fast in the evening and they concluded to stay - they left us after breakfast. This addition to their visit was a great addition to our enjoyment, as we were able to unite both morning and evening in our supplications and acknowledgments to God, and in singing his praises.

I hope you will regard with kindness the incoherencies of this scrawl - my thoughts are confused, a heaviness oppresses my head, and occasions ^{some} of heart. I endeavour to rise above it, but my strength is weakness. The Saviour of sinners who knew temptation, and was acquainted with grief, said to Peter "I have prayed for thee that thy faith fail not!! It is well for his mourning followers that he is still as ever a prevailing Intercessor - you will think and justly that this letter has been long enough in cooking - long enough to be a good one. Perhaps you will consent to wait till your return home, or till you receive another letter, for a satisfactory report.

Since I began this letter Theodore's room has gone on prosperously - the plastering is nearly done, and he is painting the adjoining bedroom - after all his quarters will be rather rough - and his accommodations not very good. They may answer the purpose till he is able to build.