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**DESCRIPTION OF REPRODUCED ITEM:**

Elizabeth Huntington. ALS (Elm Valley), to Edward, 1840 Apr 8. In:  
Porter-Phelps-Huntington Family Papers, box 12, folder 4).

Elm Valley April 3<sup>th</sup> 1840  
Wednesday evening.

My dear Edward,

When I opened your letter today and found it addressed to myself, I felt reproach'd for my negligence. Under the influence of your kind and filial affections you have written two, perhaps three letters, to which I have returned no answer. A most unprofitable unscrupulous truly I must own myself to be.

In your account of your walk home, I think you discover a little of that pride which belongs to the Phelps's; or of that "laudable ambition" as your father calls it, which belongs to the Thentingtons. What a pity, that the man should have alighted to the Hay scales. You might otherwise have had a comfortable ride, and said your feet many a painful twinge.

The kind concern you manifest for my health & ease, is grateful to a mother's feelings; but let me assure you that I shall endeavour to do no more than will promote my health. If Providence kindly furnishes me with strength which I can employ in promoting the welfare and comfort of those around me, is it my duty to sit down at my ease, and refuse to lighten the burden which might bear heavily upon the shoulders of the poor and kind-hearted? Beside I should be very reluctant, to do any thing which might so greatly increase the labour and

anxiety of my friends, <sup>as</sup> a fit of sickness necessarily would  
do. Our family is small, and without an addition to  
its numbers, we are in no danger of being over-worked.  
Your father says he feels better today than he has for  
a long time. He had a letter on Saturday requesting  
him to preach at Duxfield on the next sabbath. ~~He~~ <sup>He</sup>  
returned for answer that he should endeavour to be  
comply with their request; of course he is collecting  
and saving all his energies for that emergency.

Your brother Theodore has devoted this afternoon  
to his mother and sister. We called at bapt. Elijah  
Smith's, at Col. Porter's, Doctor Porter's and Mr. Tuckerman's.

Our proposed intercourse and influence with our neigh-  
bours north of us, is likely to prove like many of our  
schemes, an airy castle. At the society's meeting on Monday  
there were only three votes, in favour of retaining  
Mr. Hanna as their religious Teacher. As they are prob-  
ably to be in an unsettled state for a time, your Fa-  
ther thinks it expedient to stand aloof.

A few days ago, I invited your father to accompany me  
on a visit to Cabotville this week - but he does not  
favour the plan at all, so I must wait, either till  
he is better disposed, or till I can find some one who is.  
Friday evening. On Wednesday we received with yours by mail,  
a letter from William dated Quincy, March 11<sup>th</sup> and one from  
Frederic by Arthur. William writes that they had a prosperous  
journey, and received a cordial welcome from their friends.  
The next day being sabbath they had worship in the court-house.  
The room was not large, but so crowded that some were unable  
to find seats. The father says, "At the request of some of the  
young men, I have consented to give a course of Wednesday even-  
ing lectures on the doctrines of christianity, the first of which  
will be given to night. He also says by way of Postscript,

"I have already met what I consider as great success. I have induced a young man of great promise to commence the study of Theology, with reference to preaching in the Unitarian ranks." Frederic writes in good spirits. He gives a very full account of his situation and employments, and appears well satisfied with both. The students have three or four <sup>evening</sup> meetings each week; one for the promotion of personal piety by conversation. Another which is strictly a prayer-meeting - another for the discussion of topics of more general interest, in debate, and another every second ~~week~~ of a Philanthropic Society &c.

Tomorrow is the anniversary of our dear Mary's birth. Although I cannot feel that we are taught in the Scriptures, either by precept or example to pray for our departed friends, yet I do consider it a great privilege, and a duty, to make mention of them in every prayer, giving thanks to God for the revelation of his mercy by Jesus Christ, and the blessed hope that those who have here loved & served him, shall, when freed from their burdens of mortality, be with him, where he is, to behold his glory, to enjoy his favour, & never, never sin. Our most devout thanksgivings are due to the Author of all good, for the wisdom which we have, that the dear ones of this family, who were so early removed from us, were in some measure benefited by his grace, for a holier and more sublime service among the redeemed in heaven. May it be our care to be followers of those who thro' faith and patience inherit the promises.

I hope your visit at home left no unpleasant impressions. I should be sorry indeed to inflict a pang where I earnestly desire to bestow happiness. I have not wisdom to advise you. I can only commend you to God, and <sup>the</sup> word of his grace. Trusting in him we need not fear. "In all thy ways acknowledge him and he will direct thy paths." Most truly your affectionate mother Elizabeth

Samuel began writing today.

D. Huntington P.M.  
Free

North Hadley  
April 11<sup>th</sup>

Mr. Edward P. Huntington  
Cabotville  
Springfield