

Rev. Frederic D. Huntington

Boston

Elm Valley Dec. 25<sup>th</sup> 1842.

Dear Frederic,

It is not because I have not thought of you by Day and by night, for many weeks past, that I have not written to you, neither is it because I have been so much occupied by other cares and labours, that I have had no time for you - but it has been, rather a reluctance to increase the amount of service which you are called upon to perform.

When we were informed of your illness, I had serious apprehensions that your health was in danger, from over-exertion, both bodily and mental - but as you appeared to be under the most favourable circumstances, (according to your own account,) in the best possible situation, and with the gentlest hands to minister to your comfort, I felt pretty sure, that a communication from me, would only be another call upon you for another effort, which I was by no means willing to make. But as you have returned to your former lodgings, and accustomed duties, and beside as I can send so conveniently by Arthur - I'll try - and first I must say that I wish you would make us a visit. I have a multitude of things to say and questions to ask, which cannot be put into a letter - and you have no time to write answers, even if they could - you need not think that I have given up all interest in your affairs - so far from this being the case, I never felt so deep a concern in you and yours as I now do - and I can hardly feel satisfied



with receiving so little information about them. We went to Northampton yesterday, expecting surely to get a letter from you, but got us usual a disappointment instead. However, we heard our new friend Mr. Bulfinch knock, and we will try to think over his instructions and profit by them.

You can hardly imagine what a stir this wedding and the preparations, are making in our quiet valley. Your uncle is in fine spirits and enjoys it just as he should - the circumstance of having all his children together, is not, among others, to be over looked.

Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> Feb. Your father and Theodor have just returned from Northampton and brought the package from you, containing the books &c for all your kind attentions I thank you heartily in my own account.

I have not time to look at Longfellow's pamphlet now, only the lines to Doct. Shanning - they are thrilling. I trust when you can, you will be helping hand to the slave - at least pray for them in public, and in secret. Mr. Lathrop I think must have some twinges of conscience.

We received the order of services at the dedication of the hall to be occupied by your secret society - I believe you know my ideas and feelings respecting secret societies - if there is good to be done, why is their concealment? why not diffuse goodness? - why put the candle under a bushel! we read of some who chose not to come to the light lest their deed should be reproved - where there is secrecy, there is often ground for suspicion - and a minister of Christ should be above being suspected - "give no occasion for the enemy to speak reproachfully" - you will forgive the freedom which I take - Did I lose you left, I might with bold my opinion.

It would be a high gratification if we could know more about your doings among your people - <sup>however</sup> one unspeakable privilege remains to us - freedom of access to the mercy seat - and to us who are on the confines, and probably very near entering the invisible world, it should be peculiarly precious.

But I have already detained you too long from more important duties - I wish just to inquire whether you was able to do my errand with regard to Edward's pin - and if so, what was the expense. - With the most earnest desires for your happiness, both now and forever I am as ever most truly your affectionate mother  
Much love to Hannah &c  
Elizabeth

Dear Fredk. The errand I sent by Mr. Daves, you say nothing about. If it is in any way inconvenient for you to attend to it: just wave it, keeping the paper. The paper was a loose one, but rather conveys by into a letter. If by any means, it was not received, I must prepare another. Very affect your father & friend D. H.

More last words. I read here with a package, the contents of which may prove to be something better, than to say "be ye warmed;" but if from the bounty of your new friends, you find no uses for these, just send them back by the first good conveyance. - The blessing of the Infinite One, and the Spirit of holiness and blessing be rest upon you and help you ever more.

We are expecting Edward and Helen this afternoon to attend the wedding - Mother will give you all the particulars -

The pamphlets you sent containing the ordination services were distributed as you requested, excepting giving one to Caroline. I spoke to her about it and she said her father had one sent to him by Mother, and that she had read it - we neglected handing one to her till they were all disposed of but one, and that your father lent to Mr. Leonard, and having gone the round that village, it is too much sold to offer to any one. - If you will procure one (one they are for sale) and give her, I will settle with you <sup>when</sup> you - Mr. Mr. Bulfinch has one perhaps it will be better to say no more about it but do as you think best. The women charge we are highly commended. - On Friday we had your uncle and aunt Mr. Bulfinch and Caroline with Elizabeth Ware (who makes her visit at Eden at this time that she may be present at the marriage) and Susan Lyman to take tea with us. -