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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).

Mr. Frederic D. Huntington.

Student

Amherst College.

Mother

Winter
1838?

Elm Valley. Dec.

Saturday evening.

My dear Frederic,

Your letter, received last evening, was very gratifying, to us all. The recollection of our loved ones who are passed into heaven, is always comforting. There is a hallowing influence accompanying these thoughts, which I consider one of the important means of religious improvement, with which our merciful Father has kindly furnished us.

It seems desirable, that these Dissertations should be circulated, and I am much pleased that there is a call for them. The ~~great~~ time and labour which ^{the writing} ~~it~~ would not have been small. And having been undertaken at that time, when he had so many other duties to perform, is a proof, if proof were wanting, that it was a subject in which his whole soul was most deeply interested.

I have regretted that the prayer he wrote on sending his work to the Press, was not prefixed to it.

Your observations, on the liberality of sentiment manifested by your preacher, I like very much. We should ever regard with more interest, the general good, than our own selfish gratification.

I said "liberality of sentiment," perhaps I might with more propriety have called it the spirit of fervour. May this spirit increase our numbers.

I have begun to read Channing on Slavery &c. As far as I have gone it is admirable. When we have done with it, I shall want you to take it, and perhaps you can make it useful among your unbanians. It is a subject, which

Red Arrow

involves one of the first principles of the christian religion. Possibly its discussion may be the means, of setting forth in ^{more} prominent point of view, than has ever before been done, the duty of loving our neighbour as ourselves. This universal benevolence seems to be an essential ingredient in the character of the follower of Jesus.

What a blessing is the sabbath! Since I began to write, your brothers and sisters have had quite a discussion upon the propriety of writing letters on the sabbath, or saturday night. It was introduced by a general complaint of drowsiness, which seemed unusually appropriate this evening.

In vindication of my own practice, I observed, that if letters were written upon religious subjects, with a desire to increase our love to God, and goodness, and to excite our devotional feelings; to fix our hopes and affections on things above, and make us more indifferent to the things of time, they might be useful, and the labour not be a breach of the fourth commandment.

The ~~excuse~~ ^{kind of the two elder} Their remarks however, were of such a nature as to undermine my present employment, and so I desist, with the desire, that a sabbath's blessing may attend us all.

Sabbath evening. We have all been at home all day, on account of the weather. Your father went yesterday to Shelburne, to supply for Mr. Colman. Theophilus has been quite unwell today, had a bad headache in the morning, some fever, and the same pain and soreness in his bowels which he had last fall. He took a dose of pills, followed with sattu, and seems to be better. Theodore has gone to the Post Office. Mary is humming over her singing book and Bethia seems to be learning a hymn while she knits. Theophilus has laid himself down upon the floor in your father's corner, with a pillow under his head and Hilar and Ben. are playing in the kitchen.

On Thursday we were all invited to visit at your brother's at N. H. We could not all leave home, and so your father & mother went, with Theophilus and Bethia. Your uncles family were also invited but the coldness of the weather prevented their going. We had a very pleasant visit; Fanny is very healthy, and both she and little Charles, are lovely and promising children. God grant that they may belong to that number of whom it is said, "of such is the kingdom of heaven!"

I regret that the students have begun their foolish practices, and hope that the injured will manifest a proper spirit, and not render evil for evil, remembering that it is better to suffer wrong, than to do wrong. Those who for sport, are willing to inflict pain on others, have very wrong views of the value of time, and the account which they will be required to give of the use they have made of it.

I have copied the prayer which I alluded to in the beginning of the letter, upon the back of one of yours from Mother, thinking you would like to have it. Theodore has bro't a letter from William. He gives the sketch of a sermon which he heard ^{preached} by Doct. ~~William~~ ^{William}, he says he finds he knows absolutely nothing. He expects I read back the last of this week.

When you date your letter a second time, begin a new paragraph; and mention this because in one of your letters you dated in the middle of a line. your last letter was well expressed and accurately written, and more than this, the sentiments were such as do honour to a christian, consequently were highly gratifying to

your affectionate mother

E. H. H.

I send you the Christian Register. Of late it seems to have deteriorated. I rarely look into it, it seems to be taken up with a long dialogue, what of Sunday school &