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DESCRIPTION OF REPRODUCED ITEM:

Elizabeth Huntington. ALS (Elm Valley), to Frederic, 1844 Nov. 29. In: Porter-Phelps-Huntington Family Papers, box 12, folder 9).

Rev. F. D. Huntington

Boston —

Edw. L.

Elm Valley Nov. 29th - 44

My very dear Frederic,

Could I persuade myself that you were sincere and in earnest, in making the request in your last letter, it would give me pain to refuse; for you know I have it in my heart always to please you and do you good. In this instance however, your kind feelings for your mother have taken the place of your better judgment. If the thing were possible, I would most gladly help you, but as the case is, it would be, it would be absurd in the highest degree for me to attempt it — it would be a sure evidence that the faint glimmering of reason had departed.

Whether, with greater opportunities for mental cultivation in youth, I might have been able to write a decent paragraph, or whether there is a natural deficiency, or want of intellectual capability, are questions which it would be difficult for me to answer. I must content myself with the hope, that if I here, according to my poor ability desire and endeavor to do good in a very small way, if only by waiting and ~~weeping~~ between the porch and the altar, I may in a future life be furnished with powers, which will enable me to render a higher service, to Him who claims and deserves our best and our all.

I feel thankful that I have hands, and strength to use them; they have prepared for you a small article which you may find comfortable as the cold increases. I like to force myself upon your notice, if it is only by warming your feet. - If ^{the socks} they are disagreeably warm, send them back, and I will knit you some that are finer.

When Bethies returns, I shall hope to learn many particulars respecting your family affairs, and those of your parish, which you of course cannot have time to communicate. I shall be with you in spirit. I hope the "hired man" you mention in your letter, will prove himself a true disciple of the Great Master, and that you may have good reason to hope that your labours are not in vain in the Lord among your own people. - It gives me great comfort to find that you are not wasting your hours, among the great dinner-tables in Boston - or at any other fashionable parties. It is a blessed thing that your your hearers are willing to hear ^{the gospel} both parts of the day. - It is well also that your numbers do not diminish - indeed I find I have much to be thankful for on your behalf. - I have had a little concern on Hannah's account - hearing so often how poorly she looks - but I hope her complaints are only those occasioned by nursing a great boy. That I have not seen him, I often try to imagine how he looks, and often carry him for a blessing to Him who said, "If such is the kingdom of Heaven." To dear Hannah, I send a volume of the Mother's Magazine. there may be some things in it which do not exactly suit your taste or her's - but I feel quite sure that there are many things which may be attended to with pleasure and benefit also - I hope she will ^{pardon} my giving her an old book.

Saturday - Theophilus is much pleased with the Christian Doctrine - he was rather reluctant to read it, as he thought it must be controversial - but he likes the sentiments much and admires the spirit in which it is written. Our public national interests might give alarm - the prospect is threatening. It seems as if our sins had reached to heaven and deserved the visit which is impending. Our only hope is in the Lord our God - for he can turn the counsels of the wicked into foolishness.

Winter seems to be coming in earnest - How forcibly it presents to ^{my} thoughts the winter of age - may I also have faith to view the blessed inheritance where everlasting spring abides - and "the days of our mourning shall be ended" - may the Spirit of God abide with you and at length grant us to meet in the great company above, ^{never} more to separate. such is the desire of your loving mother

Elizabeth

While Mrs. Fisher was here she had the second volume of Greenwood's sermons, which you with such kindness sent to us last winter, it remained at Charles' some time after she left, and we are now reading them in the family sabbath evenings. It is like partaking of a delicious feast to hear them.

Elizabeth