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DESCRIPTION OF REPRODUCED ITEM:

Elizabeth Huntington. ALS (Elm Valley), to Edward, 1837 Jul 24. In:
Porter-Phelps-Huntington Family Papers, box 12, folder 4).

Elm Valley July 24th 1837.

Dear Edward, Mr. Fisher and his family arrived at Northampton last Saturday, and we had the pleasure of meeting them yesterday in health and comfort. From Mrs. F. I learn, that while I have been thanking the kind Providence which has placed you so near us, and given you leisure to improve your mind, and business which brings you a reasonable compensation, you have been lamenting over your situation, and regret that you are not among the forests and mountains of Maine. Perhaps you have had in time past, too little time for thought reflection and study, thus much we may be assured of that the allotments of Divine Providence are always designed for our benefit. Even our frailties and errors, will be so overruled, as, if rightly improved, to advance our real and final happiness. It pains me to think that you are suffering from the idea, that we are subject to any inconvenience on your account. Our circumstances at home are very comfortable, we have every thing that we need, abundance of the bounties of Providence, health, ease, and friends, and what is best of all, health I trust to feel in some measure, the value of those hopes which are presented to us in ^{the} gospel of Jesus Christ. At present our sympathies are awakened on William's account. We received a letter from him last week, written

on a sick bed, ^{the 9th inst.} about a fortnight before, when he had lain
down Days, confined with the fever of that country. He
sat up a little, the Day before he wrote, and began to take
a little nourishment. His physician said he was on the
^{waning hand} recovery. As soon as he should be able, it was his intention
to proceed towards Hillsborough. The writer thus respecting his
sickness. "My thoughts have run a great deal on the solemn
realities of life, Death, and immortality. Tho' I have not regard
my symptoms at any time, as particularly alarming, being
my own physician for a few Days, still I have been kept
thoughtful, by the very precarious issues of fever. I have
never ventured to pray in an unqualified manner for
recovery. The burden of my prayer has constantly been,
"Father glorify thy name" whether by my recovery or my
Death. "Not my will but thine be done". I think I can
bear the testimony of my own experience, to the power of
the Unitarian faith to sustain the sinking spirit, and
shed light and patience over the darkest passages of life.
As I have lain here alone, I have reflected also a great
deal on my past unfruitfulness; my too great inconsider-
ately to the danger and worth of immortal souls. It seems
to me I shall be stirred up to greater faithfulness, frequency
and earnestness, in warning men to repent, when ever I
can meet them, in private as well as in public. I think
I may say I am not anxious as to the ultimate result of this
visitation. I pray that it may be of some use to you all."

We are going on very regularly at home. Tho' the Divine
goodness we have had no sickness to awaken our anxiety
since you left us. We rest in peace, ^{at night}, and rise
in the morning refreshed and strengthened by the ^{rest} and ^{strengthening} of the ^{rest} and ^{strengthening}

and we have been to think of the dear Shepherd with a feeling of grateful

and we have learned to think of the dear departed with a feeling of grateful joy that the days of their mourning are ended. - But our aim is to become

of the Day. your father rides to Athol very Saturday, we all attend public worship generally at N. on the sabbath, and with the assistance of Mr. Wright we go thro' our Sunday's work with all imaginable ease. your father returns in the afternoon, and tho' he complains some of weariness, yet I have no doubt these rides are beneficial to his health and spirits. your brother has been busily engaged a week or two past in scouring this bay, for which the weather has been remarkably fine. Theophilus's house almost covered, and begins to look well. Public notice was given yesterday in Hadley, ~~that~~ ~~that~~ ~~that~~ of his hitherto private intentions. But it is not probable that the event will take place before October or November.

It is very pleasant in our household walks to see we frequently do the tokens of your regard. The very beautiful and useful pitcher for molasses, is greatly admired, and as constantly used. - I hope you call on Sarah often, and keep up some intercourse with your other friends. Will it not be practicable to make us a visit before long? - If you were a thousand miles off, we would not expect to see you, but as one day may bring you home, do give us a visit. - I was highly gratified with the last letter you wrote ^{your sabbath walks} me, and hope you will continue to favour us often in this way. Charles and his family dined with us one day last week. They bro't over Harriette and left her with us till Saturday; The children are quite well. Without doubt you think of the sorrow of past years which this season is calculated to bring to mind. - These sorrows have become softened by succeeding periods and events

D. Huntington P.M
Free

North Hadley
July 25

Mr. Edw. P. Huntington
Boston
MS