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DESCRIPTION OF REPRODUCED ITEM:

Elizabeth Huntington. ALS (Elm Valley), to Edward, 1840 May 15. In: Porter-Phelps-Huntington Family Papers, box 12, folder 4).

Elm Valley May 15th 1840-

Dear Edward, just as I had taken my seat for the purpose of writing to you, Theophilus and Eliza came in and spent ^{the only a few minutes} so much of this short evening, that I have hardly time to write what can be fairly called a letter, and yet have ~~time~~ ~~to~~ ~~write~~ ~~in~~ ~~sufficient~~ ~~time~~ ~~for~~ ~~sheep~~. So I will proceed to business, and inform you according to your request that the ordinations will probably take place next week-day. I am very glad you propose to come and see us at that time, and it is particularly desirable to Bithia that you should come here the day or evening before, in preference to going first to Westhampton; as she has made arrangements for sleeping with Helen a week or two after the ordination, and would regret exceedingly to miss your visit. Your father will not be present on that occasion, as he is ~~must~~ ~~to~~ attend to receiving the interest on the surplus revenue of that day.

We have been looking at the starry heavens, and the moon shining ~~so~~ brightly and solemnly, as if inviting us to extend our thoughts beyond their visible heavens, to the glorious residence of the Great Ruler of the universe. It is a most cheering and joyful reflection, that the same infinitely good Being, who diffuses light, and love, and perfect happiness thro' the inhabitants of the heavenly world, is also our God, and will be our guide even until death, and that although he numbers the angels hosts, he yet condescends to notice the fall of a sparrow, and by the mouth of his beloved Son has assured us, that his believing obedient children are of more value than many sparrows. Blessed be his name, that he permits us to hope, that our dear departed ones, have gone before us and entered into Rest. How much does this little word express! Even here the Christian enjoys something of that Rest. - Hoping soon to see you face to face - believe me as ever most affectionately your mother
Elizabeth

This hard work does not agree at all with
Theodore's health. he perseveres, but the last
half of every day's labour, is evidently
beyond his strength. I hope he may not
entirely undermine his constitution, by
this over exertion.

Wm. Washington
Washington
D. C.
May 16
N. Washington