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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).

W. Huntington J. M.
D. M.

North Hadley
Sep. 11th

Mr. Frederic J. Huntington
Warwick Ms

W. March

Elm Valley - Sept. 10th 1841 -

My Dear Frederic,

It is just five days, since we parted on the green at Lowell, and breathed forth for each other, the warm and earnest desires of affectionate hearts. At these seasons of parting, we need a reliance on Him who is never weary, who is ever at hand to answer our imperfect and feeble requests; and it is most comforting to find in those we fondly love, this devout trust in our heavenly Father. At the throne of grace we find a refuge from care, for we cast our cares upon him who careth for us; and we realize in our own experience, that "they who believe, do enter into rest!"

Nothing very strange has occurred since you left us. The usual routine of household duties or rather services have been accomplished after the old fashion, and the "wheels mill track" has been pursued pretty steadily. Theodore and Elizabeth made a slight deviation yesterday and rode to Northampton. We were informed that Mr. Ellis preached to general satisfaction - Mr Edward Blake is so captivated, that he has invited him to take up his lodging at his house. Mr. Lathrop mentioned to Theodore that he had received a letter from Warwick which announced your arrival there. Little Mary is recovering slowly. - On the Sabbath ~~we~~ During our ride home, our attention was chiefly occupied with watching the broken part of our carriage, which was so skillfully secured however, that we reached home without difficulty. Theophilus took Edward down in the evening as far as South Hadley, and left him to find his way home, by the light of the stars, and the light of pleasing recollections; and possibly some anticipations of the future might ^{have} brightened the prospect.

Elizabeth's cousins have not yet arrived. The good is yet to come. Her health is improving. - Theodore too I think; I hope this beautiful weather will keep and make us well. Especially may it raise our grateful affections to him who giveth us all things richly to enjoy. We have had a call from Charles and Helen since I began to write, he came to take Mr. Fisher's law books, and give little Mary a ride; they have just left us. Theophilus invited the cousins to sing on Wednesday evening - Their exercises might be interesting and improving, but no one feels at liberty to suggest any new ideas, or hardly to notice a glaring fault, and the chief aim seems to be to sing on, and sing loud, the same old tunes and in the same way. - Oh! if - regard your absence, as doubtless we all did, tho' all did not speak of it. He is always foremost - ardent and affectionate. - The subject of the marriage is discussed largely at Pine Grove, I should think from what we hear, tho' I presume not always in the presence of their father. He who ever looks on the dark side, must be exposed to no a multitude of frightful appearances by moonlight. - The great hope I think must be in having Charles for a leader. - Your brother and their wives had Mr. Sharpe had a formal invitation to take tea there yesterday; after much debating and disputing, it was agreed that they should go. - So Theodore, your assistant in the anti-visiting cause, overcame his reluctance, and by a mighty effort, walked over with Theophilus, drank tea, and spent the evening - reaching our door just as the bell rang. -

Evening - I do do - Your father has been gathering beans today on the hill-side - and is now reclining on Edward's sofa. Bethia sits with me at the table, with great rapidity setting stitches in a cotton garment, designed for the use of a certain schoolmaster. Theodore's voice is heard reading to his wife, probably in Mrs. Carley's miscellanies. - I have been examining today the Christian Examiner. Mr. Parker's sermon as reviewed in that work. It is fine - I can conceive of nothing better. How do you like it? I took an early opportunity to read your piece, and was much

gratified and instructed. Some of the family found ~~some~~ difficulty in understanding the first part of it - but not so with Bethia and me. we were strong in intellect, and able to see through ~~the~~ ^{dark passages}. It is quite an advance for me, even to read of those things which are spread out before us; I admire and wonder. - and while I am conscious of having done nothing in this way, I feel grateful to Him who has placed me in the midst of a scene, formed by his own hand with an uncommon beauty and loveliness - where without expense we may behold the effects of his power and goodness, and be assured that he has made all things very good. -

I hope you find your employment pleasant. and your scholars tractable and orderly. When we follow our various occupations, as under the inspiration of the All-wise One, we shall hardly fail to go on with comfort to ourselves and usefulness to others. As the cool weather comes on, and you are wandering among the woods and mountains, be careful to guard against exposure to damp or night air, and use exercise while out. - The season brings fresh to mind the events of 1839 - may they ever be so remembered by us all, as to attract us with increasing force, to the contemplation of those objects, which alone can satisfy and elevate the soul. -

With the kindest remembrances from all, most truly
your affectionate mother Elizabeth