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**DESCRIPTION OF REPRODUCED ITEM:**

Elizabeth Whiting Phelps Huntington. ALS, Hadley, to Edward, 1831 Apr 24.  
In: Porter-Phelps-Huntington Family Papers (Box 12 Folder 3).

Mr Edward P. Huntington

Hadly April 24<sup>th</sup> 1831-

My dear Edward, As tomorrow is your birth day -  
you will not I hope take it unkindly  
if on this occasion I address you on concerns infinitely  
by momentous - if my going it needs an apology,  
the distress which I have experienced, and the awful  
views I have had with regard to the just punishment  
of sin - and the terror which I felt in the idea of  
God <sup>as being</sup> angry with the wicked - will surely seem  
to you a sufficient reason for my urging you  
with the greatest importunity not to rest, till  
you have resolved in the fear of God and with  
dependence upon his promised Spirit - to employ  
your time talents powers and faculties in his  
service - and to promote his glory - your situation  
is I know in some respects peculiar - you are  
involved in a perplexing business, which  
requires much time and attention - but I  
hope you will make it your first  
object to ascertain what portion of time you  
ought to devote to secret devotion <sup>and reading the Bible</sup> every day,  
and then be constant - importunate - persevering  
never suffer any thing to interrupt this  
intercourse between God and your soul - if  
you suffer it in one instance - you may  
in another and another, till the duty is  
entirely neglected - and it is a solemn truth  
that they who are far from God must  
perish - The encouragement to this

Duty is abundant - Draw nigh to God and  
he will draw nigh to you - seek ye the  
Lord while he may be found call ye upon  
him while he is near - In all these ways  
acknowledge him, or seek his blessing, and he  
will direct thy path - Ask and ye shall  
receive, seek and ye shall find, knock and  
it shall be opened to you - then follows  
the promise <sup>repeated again & again</sup> for every one that asketh  
receiveth and he that seeketh findeth and  
to him that knocketh it shall be opened.

After such gracious declarations, who would  
not resolve to ask and seek and knock  
when while life lasts. In this as in all  
Duty it is true that he who endureth to  
the end shall be saved - Feeling our  
own weakness and sinfulness - it would seem  
strange that there should be any who should  
need urging to persevere to this exercise -  
I sincerely hope that all I have said to  
you will not be as reproof - but rather  
as a means of confirming you in a  
practice which you have <sup>already</sup> found guiding  
you the purest enjoyment, and highly  
efficacious in promoting <sup>strengthening</sup> every  
good purpose and all holy affections -

you will not I hope regard what I have  
written as ~~the~~ altogether the effect of a  
disordered imagination - I know my mind  
is a little shattered - but I think I know  
also that the life of the Christian must be  
a season of improvement - and that with-  
out the assistance of the Divine Spirit  
sought by earnest prayer, we cannot expect  
to make advances in virtue or happiness  
Our blessed Saviour himself spent whole  
nights in prayer - and can we poor sinners  
act in our own strength - Let us always  
look to his example, and to him as  
our intercessor at the right hand of  
the Father - and thus believing that  
he is able to save all that come to God  
by him, may we come boldly to the  
throne of grace that we may obtain  
mercy and find grace to help in time  
of need - I would now join with you in  
giving thanks to God for all the mercies that  
have attended you thus far on the journey  
of life, and pray that what remains may  
be devoted to him, and employed in  
his service, that we may all be per-  
mitted to write again <sup>and</sup> those mansions  
which Jesus has prepared and promised for  
his humble followers - so prays most  
earnestly your affectionate mother  
Elizabeth H. Thenther