Lexington Jan 2th 1858

My Dear Son

I have been confined a greater part of the week — from an attack of Influenza — Your Mother has been also confined — most of the time in bed — But we are both recovering & I hope will soon be entirely recovered

Enclosed I send you a check for $250 which will be enough or nearly so to pay you out — including your Greek professor 100 College dues 110 board — & Greek professor these as I understand are your leading & principal debts — This 250 added to the 200 recently sent you — makes 450$ leaves 110$ for other Matters & expenses home — I hope you can make out with this — acknowledge its receipt — the moment you receive it — we have not a letter from you this week

The holidays has been signalized in our house — by a Clerical Dinner an "Sociable" by Miss Mary — which means a house full, Spended spread & plenty of Champaign — which was taken very freely Music Dancing Cards &c &c &c

Some of them

I presume have given you particulars

I think that appearances indicate that things have indicate a sort of domestic revolution — your Mother seems to have yielded pretty much to the Girls and I think a spread is proposed upon your return — by your Mother to you

I have my hands so full of occupation just now that I must stop my letter this day three week we shall look for you at the furthest

The Carriage I have determined to order from Phila & upon your return I must send you that root upon that business — Will send you much love

Your Devoted Father

H. T. Duncan

Lexington Jan 8th 1858

My Dear Sir

Yours of the 1st inst is at hand - the first for 2 weeks, the letter referred to as written a week before did not come to hand

I wrote you on last Saturday the 2d inst enclosing you a check for $250 - on the 3d I drop[ped] you a lines, apprising you of the fact & now again inform you of the remittance on the 2 inst - so that you will certainly know that I have sent you the monies to pay you out before you leave

I am glad to hear from you that the sentiments of the North approves of the course of Com Paulding - It was exactly right and if the government pursues a similar energetic course

towards Filibusters. They will effectually break up these lawless & piratical bands. For my part I have heard no intelligence for a long time that gratified me more. These vagabonds & adventurers never had a particle of sympathy from me. The indignation meetings of the South will amount to nothing. It does not represent the sober public sentiment of the South. But only that of a certain loose class of politicians and adventurers.

The fact you mention to me that Capt Paulding is the son of the patriotic soldier & incorruptible patriot of that name, who spilled in the arrest of Maj Andrew during the Revolution "A worthy son of a noble sire,"

We should be anxiously for your work after next.

This incident brings to my mind the fact that you are a subscriber to the "Life of Washington," by Irving. If you have read any additional vol, bring them home with you.

I take it from your account you have had a pleasant Christmas. I suppose the affair at Warners came off well and that you enjoyed yourself very well.

The young people have had rather a gay time. The indications are that your Sister is disposed to lead a merry life & forget all her promises to herself of a course of profitable reading. I fear that all is to yield up for present pleasure. I was pleased at hearing in your letter on this subject. All send your much love.

Yr devoted Father
H T Duncan

you are doing, and what you have been doing yourself, this vacation. Will and I, have been going to a sociable or something of the sort, most every night and the light fantastic, has been used considerably.

Hoping that you can read this scrawl which has been written by piece meals, and with a poor pen &c. But I can't make my writing good, any way, that you know.

Jus'ting to hear from you very soon

I remain

your friend & Classmate

Henry M. Bond.

Boston Feby. 3d. /58

Mr Henry F. Duncan Jr.

Dear Dunc.

In accordance with my promise, I will now pen, or (more properly speaking), scrawl you a few lines.

I rode into Boston this morning, for the purpose of going over to Charlestown, to make a few calls, but on arriving at my Father's office, I found his Clerk was sick and unable to attend to business to day; consequently as my Father and Brother are both very busy, they wish me to stay here for a little while, at least, to take charge of office &c: while they are obliged to be off attending to customers. This afternoon however, I mean to be present at the Concert in the Music Hall, where I expect as usual to see quite a crowd of pretty feminines &c.

Poor Dunc! You wretched man! you have been gone and done, what perhaps it will not be so easy for you to undo. I fear that the

mischievous little Cupid, has sent too deadly a shaft, into the heart of our dear little Partridge. Ah! Ha! you may well tremble now, for fear of that dreaded appellation "a desperate flirt."

Miss F. had carefully preserved the flowers of that bouquet, in a flat glass dish, and almost her first words to me, were "Where is your friend Mr Duncan? why did you not bring him with you? It's a real shame!" He might have waited over a few days, for the sake of coming here to night" etc etc. But I must not be such a tattler; however you are the only one that I have mentioned the above confab to. But the worst and the best part of the whole is that she said all this while leaning on poor Dick V.'s arm. I should have told you that all this conversation took place at the young lady's house on the Wedy. evening after your departure. Repeated inquiries has once been made from the same source regarding your welfare. The richest part of my story is yet to be told. Next Monday evening, we are going to have the finale of the Episcopal Skating Circle, owing to the coming of Lent; and we are all to go in fancy costumes. While I was skating with Partridge, day before yesterday, I asked her if she was going, to which question she replied in the negative, owing to her being dressed in black. My cheeks burn, while I am (contrary to my custom) making such a gossip, of myself. But here goes feeling pretty sure, that you will not mention this, to any one. I suggested to the young lady, on hearing her ans, that she should go as a nun; to which she replied "If Mr Duncan was here and would go as a priest, I would go as a nun, and she laughed right merrily.

But enough of this nonsense and fal de ral. I trust and hope that you arrived home safe and sound, and that you took no additional cold, in your journey home. I can picture to myself Henry F. jr surrounded by a lot of pretty little darkies, with sparkling eyes and grinning mugs, all of them too eager to be the favoured one or ones, who shall wait on their young Massey, in his morning hunt. How delightful it must be to have a little darkey, to perform all your commands, but at the same time how infernally it must increase one's laziness; not that I mean to insinuate anything, concerning the activity of your honourable self. The Lord Knows we are all lazy enough.

Write me a good long letter, and tell me what

Pennsylvania University,
February 6th, 1858.

Mr. A. T. Duncan Junr.

Dear Sir, — I have received the splendid work of Professor Pierce, with your "kind regards", at the hands of Mr. Shaw. For this most acceptable and valuable token of friendship, I beg that you will accept my hearty acknowledgments.

I doubt not that this work of Professor Pierce, on the most recondite of all the exact sciences, is the ablest now extant, in any language. I shall study it, with a proper diligence, both on account of its intrinsic importance, and of the way by which it has come into my possession. — That you, my Dear Sir, may continue to be an example of all that is commendable in young men, and enjoy a long, useful, and happy life, is the sincere wish and prayer of Your friend,

James B. Dodd.

Feb 8-5

propitious, but to day we are having a small snow storm, which if it continues will put an end to the skating.

Have you heard any thing about Mr. Gilbee's Inaugural Address. It has created so much remark in our quiet city. Although intending to enforce the Liquor Law, he took occasion to express his private opinions on the subject of Temperance which were rather peculiar and have called forth several very clever hits in the papers. He thinks the way to check intemperance is to give people just so much to drink as they want.

I saw Foote today and though he is much better and looks finely he cannot yet walk. He hopes to be back by April, but I fear he will not.

What a grand time you will have coming back, I hope this will reach you before you start. With the best wishes for yourself and friends, I remain Yr. Aff. Chum, Geo. Chaney

I wish you would write again before term begins. From Washington, for instance.

Salem, Feb. 9, '58.

Dear Chum,

I suppose, by this time, you have returned from your great western tramp on the Illinois Prairies, with confirmed health and spirits. I long to hear your account of it and hope you enjoyed it as much as you expected. What a consolation it must have been to you, when shooting, to know, that no prying faculty would have you up and charge ten dollars for cost. By the way, let your mind at rest about those

gaping wounds in the marble piece, they are all healed. The day before I came away I painted them over according to your directions with. I also fulfilled your other desires successfully before coming home.

I missed you very much on Monday, Tuesday morning about four o'clk. I was waked by a knock at the door and on opening it found Hopkinson there. He had broken his lamp and wanted to sit in our room and study till prayer time. Tuesday night he also spent with me, studying all night. I admire his perseverance but think it would have been better for him to have commenced making up sooner. I helped him as much as I could on the Chemistry but nearly Everything he had to recite was reading matter. When I left on Wednesday he had finished Everything but some Physics and two theses. Tuesday evening we got up a surprise party for Cram & Stephenson. Nearly all the fellows of our class who were in the buildings went and it was a very pleasant affair. We marched in a procession from our Entry, two by two, and found them both at home, wholly unsuspicious of what was going to take place.

I wonder if you have any skating in Kentucky. It seems as if New England were mad. There were fifteen hundred on Jamaica pond the other day, more than half of them women, skating. The Salem girls have caught the fever, and skating parties are all the rage. Hitherto the weather has been wonderfully

Cincinnati Feby 18th 1858.
Tuesday Evening.

Dear Sunc

I received your very kind letter this morning & as I shall not be able to come I hasten to send you my very sincere thanks for your hospitable invitation. I went to see Nick this morning immediately after I received your letter & he says that he will be engaged this week so that it will be impossible for him to come. He also asked me to tell you so, as he is so engaged that he cannot even write. I believe he said he had some four or five letters to write which would occupy him all day. & that he had to go somewhere or do something this evening which he

5-8

did not want to do very much, but which was unavoidable. The poor fellow is surrounded by such a mass of difficulties that I have been forced to conclude that he is the unhappiest mortal alive. As for myself I have become panic stricken at the idea of company, especially since I should now have to face them almost by myself. For beside yourself I believe that I am unacquainted with a single person in Lexington or vicinity. As long as I thought that there might be three of us I was half inclined to try it, but now I find that I cannot screw my courage up to the sticking point. Seriously I have not felt very well for some days past, & besides I have had the misfortune to get hold of a very troublesome travelling companion – a bad cold. 'Ma' being very solicitous about my health insists that it will get worse if I don't take the very best care of it & rather thinks I had better not attempt to go, & so I shall have to obey. Nothing remains for me I believe but to reiterate my thanks and subscribe myself

Your devoted friend

C W Horne

Lex March 4th 1858

My Dear Son

I hear you had a safe trip to Cambridge – though you must have a very Cold one – after you started it turned very cold & continues so – it is the hardest spell of Cold we have had – it is now mid day & freezing – I am setting close to the fire & can scarcely keep comfortable I returned home on Tuesday & found all well My Cattle received while at Cincinnati weighed 1470 – will weigh by 15th June 17 to 1750 lb – Cattle is now brisk at 4p here and advance of about 40 cents per Head on my purchase – My purchase will prove a good thing & make some money, I may purchase more yet – I must "stir my stumps and force Bedford this year up to all she will do"

All are well & send you much love

Your Devoted Father

A T Duncan

Remember man's chief end
It grieves me to think you do
not regard the 'Bible' on
the sabbath day as you
should do. You are out upon
a sea & should have a guide
or pilot to direct to a safe
haven, Be wise my dear
son, & prepared to do good
in your day & generation
God bless you & keep you
from evil, Ever Your
affat Mother

P. S All desire much love
to you, A letter from
Mr Shropshire says from Miss
Stinger's bill the bassyne
must be very handsome
he will be home in a week

Duncannon
Mar 10th '58

My dear Son

Thankful & happy
am I to hear of your safe
arrival at C— Lily is pleased
with her "ear bobs", It was
quite unnecessary for you to
hurry in the case, perhaps
you wished to shew with
what despatch you could ex-
ecute a commission, Oh no
it was a pure desire to make
a little sister happy — it takes
but little to make a child
happy, & their troubles are as
great for them, as those of
mature ages, To make others

happy is a most commendable trait of character,

Ere this you have commenced your regular routine of college duties, I hope cheerfully & comfortably. Soon after you left I discovered two books which you needed & sent them on by mail; & trust that they reached you in good time. Nothing of importance has transpired since you left we are going on as usual. Mary is away every Tuesday evening to the "Club". last evening it was at Annie Brand's, & of course Mary did not return, I suppose that she will be home this afternoon. On Thursday evening there is a party at Mr Bell's Your father & M will certainly be there if all are well. How rapidly time passes. just a third of this year is already gone, Oh! that we could realize that our lives are being bourn on with the same rapidity to a limit that can not be continued in time how should it stimulate us to be ready for an event that is certainly to come, O that I could persuade you to stop & think, to consider before it is too late, this is our probation & if rightly improved will be an ever lasting happiness.

Lexington March 13th 1858

My dear Son

Yours of 7th inst - I found at hand upon my return from Bed=
=ford last evening - Informing that had taken possession of your room & had made a beginning

I regret to hear very much of your indisposition & the inflam=mation & swelling of your Tonsils And that you consider your indis=position so serious - as to make it necessary to Cambridge this time & expire your Class in Sept - That there should be a necessity for this Concerns me deeply - Or that there should be - evidences of impaired health - Has excited in my mind the most painful apprehensions - For on that health & Constitution - life is made dis=
=comfortable

If the continuance in College is to impair your health or confirm this indisposition – It is better to leave. Though I had fondly hoped you would have had strong health & constitution enough to have taken you through & that you would have graduated at Cambridge, before beginning active life – This affection of the tonsils – has always affected you more or less – and it may be necessary to have them operated upon – Your health must be well taken care of – By diet proper diet, exercise – regularity of habits – taking your rest, going out less at night – In a word to prescribe to yourself – the most perfect regularity of life and habit – avoiding any evil things that can possibly affect either mind or body injuriously

I shall feel great anxiety to hear of the result of your application for a recess until September & how you propose to sustain your position in your Class – If it is determined to require it at that time, will you be expected to keep up your studies – or is it to be a season of relaxation from intellectual labor

The Town continues gay – the Club, has its regular meetings with an occasional party besides – which keeps Mary going all the time – too much of it for health & feeling how hard with nothing but disposition

All are well & join in Love to you

Your Affectionate
Father
A. T. Dwinell

If you get a furlough until Sept
Had you not better come home

Duncannon Mar 18/58

My dear brother,

The weather has been delightful for the last week ~~past~~ and there is great probability of its continuing. Lily recieved her earrings several days ago & was very much pleased with them. The next morning father called her to him & after looking at her for a few moments said "Lily Bud was cheated he has got wood en earrings". As it is very late I will have to finish my letter in the morning. I am writing by the open window

the cars have just passed & the birds are singing as though it was summer Miss Higgins goes out with nothing on but a jacket.
Father bought a lot of cattle yesterday I think they are the finest I ever saw some of them weighed 2180 #
I wish you could hear Miss Higgins describe them & tell the length of their backs. I am very sorry to hear that you have been sick & hope by the time you receive this letter you will have recovered. The Lancaiers "club" does not meet this week it was to meet at Miss Bushes but it being Lent it will not be held there & meets at Miss L Clays next week.
Our neighbor Mrs Morgan has a little baby she calls it Alexander for its Father. We are all going to Illinois in May but I am afraid that it will be like the backs.

Miss Higgins is serenading me with her caterwauling as Mr Frank Witers calls it.
Miss Higgins got your letter and declares one day that she will write as soon as she can tell you something pleasing and satisfactory about your "Salvation" which she has no particular wish to see consummated just now. It is late & I have to go to church it being fast day or I would write more. All join in love to you, I remain your loving sister

Ellen Duncan

Lex March 18th 1858

My Dear Son

Since my letter to you of last week – which was a reply to yours, suggesting the probability of your getting leave of absence until Sept – when you would re=join your class – we have rec'd no further tidings from you, as to the fate – of what I understood to be an application for that pur=pose – The intelligence communicated in your letter – has created much anxiety – first as to your health – then a fear that you have met with some embarrassing dif=ficulty with the faculty & may have some difficulty in sustain=ing your position in the class If you can get along without loss of credit & position – I would pre=

in pence – 200 will by that time weigh 1700 if not more – Bedford will pay this season

All will be send you much love – Your Devoted Father

A T Dennison.

severe - unless your health should be hazarded by so doing - which of course is the first consideration do not permit any difficulties to depress you, or lessen your efforts to attain distinction in your class - you have gone too far to beat a retreat - were you to do so it could only be with loss of credit - Nothing but want of health could excuse it, or prevent its prejudicial effects It is now my Dear Son but a short time until the period of your graduation, arrives - & you are through - accomplish it like a man - Be for this short period a diligent & faithful student & conform to all the laws of the institution & avoid <u>as far as possible all marks</u>, permit nothing to interfere with your duties & the honorable accomplishment of your graduation

Day after to Morrow, the 58th anniversary of my birth - the 20th of March, will be here, we shall have a quiet family dinner on the occasion - your plate & chair will be set - & not occupied - you will be most affectionately remembered upon the occasion, by all present

Your Sister is full of a Trip to St Louis - with Mrs H Bell for some 3 weeks - I have not yet my own consent - when she makes such trips I prefer that her mother & myself or one of us be with her - Mary is disposed to run into excess in frolicking & pleasure - which needs restraint & regulating

I got back from Bedford last night, my cattle are well & looking splendid - I shall have about 400 for market

Nov. 18, 1858

Enclosed I send you a Memorandum from J. H. Clay requesting to do some business for him in the neighborhood of Boston — You had better get Mr Schober to go — the "" he is something of a horse man Upon the receipt of this — write to Clay acknowledging the receipt of this letter, or do it may do after you have attended to the business — I enclose you Clays Note to me — Covering the memorandum —

Yr hble

A J Dunn

I find Clays Note to me contains only a request to write you on the Subject & enclose the Memo so I send the Memo only

Memorandum for Mr H. T. Duncan jr

I would be greatly obliged to Mr H. T. Duncan jr if he would enquire of James Fenn at Spring Cottage West Roxbury Mass.^{s} during the Spring or Summer of the present year, for information of the owner of Babowrie, an imported thorough bred stallion out of Queen Mary by Annandale; now standing at the Spring Cottage under the care of Mr Fenn.

I would be pleased if Mr Duncan would see the owner, & inform him, that living near the centre of the Race horse region, I doubt not, more can be done with Babowrie here, than is possible near Boston; that I am willing to take him for the season of 1859 & 1860, the horse to be delivered to me here free of expense. I will take him & keep him for one half of his earnings. I think it probable, that I can get 50 mares to be served by him at the price his services are offered at, at Spring Cottage this season.

Personally acquainted with nearly all the breeders of the thorough bred horse in the West and

South West, I do not entertain a doubt from the description I have seen of him, that he would give satisfaction here.

If the owner wishes to sell him, after two seasons here, he would find a better market in Lex=ington than at any other point in the U. States.

Should his stock turn out well, there would be an annual increase in the number of mares sent to him. I do not think the neighborhood of Boston affords a fair field for him; the number of thorough bred mares there, being small when com=pared with their number in this region.

Mr Duncan can give the gentleman any in=formation in regard to myself, that he may require.

I offer to take the horse on the same terms that Boston, Margrave, Sarpedon & others stood in Ky

Mr H. T. Duncan's attention to this business would greatly oblige

His friend
Thos H. Clay

[18]

Mansfield March 1858.

Lexington Ky March 18th 58

My dear Mr Duncan,

Need I say that your interesting epistle gave me great pleasure bringing as it did the news of your safe arrival in Boston, and the pleasing intelligence that you found all your friends together with mine well and happy.

I regret that our usual

that Mr Brank has not another heart to bestow - Jane says says that Miss Ewing has taken him captive - he accompanied her to Louisville and has been there twice since - Saints say to aid some Minister in getting up a revival - Sinners - that the attraction is Miss Ewing - Talking of revivals reminds me that I heard of a wonderful one in Boston - I do not know to what extent it has influenced the business people but my informant states that the Old South is crowded daily

I must plead lack of material as an excuse for a dull communication. You know my sanctship would suffer by contact with the outer world. So I have steadily resisted all temptations, (notwithstanding several pressing invitations) to join in the frivolities which now abound in our hitherto quiet little city.

Meadow the tragedian, is here now. Mrs D. with the children and Mr. Jenkins, went on Tuesday to see him in "Hamlet" I think they were somewhat disappointed. Miss D. is gone to see him in "The Stranger" this evening; I hope she will enjoy it more.

I have not seen your beloved "Sallie" since you left, except at church, there, she looked every thing that was bewitching. She talks of coming out here to spend a day or two, I want to see how a bluch becomes her, and shall try Miss McKelvey's expedient for the purpose.

Another Louisville star has appeared here in the person of Miss Nichols, it is unfortunate

May, 19, 1858

and superior ideas respecting
the behaviour of young Ladies.
Well! indeed Mr. Duncan
that was too rich. Your
father spoke of it to me
in the evening with evident
satisfaction - and an
immoderate fit of laughter
was my reply.
I am now about to close
as it is nearly one O'Clock
and - you no doubt think
it would be well if I came
to this conclusion before.
Give my love to all my friends
with whom you are acquainted
excuse all mistakes as I am
very sleepy, and believe me to remain
Your friend -
Sarah Matthews

with the merchants. If such
a thing as that has taken
place - we may look for the
Millenium before Dr. Marshall's
time - or a new fury in
financial matters - an improved
method of absquatchalating.
(excuse the orthography)
The "Clubs" go on as usual - it is
supposed that all the ladies
and gentlemen who attend
will understand the rudiments
of the accomplishment - in a
month or two - there is an
evident improvement in
the bow adopted by the gentlemen
I trembled the other day for my

poor little friend Frank Water,
in attempting to pass a Lancers - his nose nearly struck
the side walk - but nothing
truly great and useful is ever
attained without more or less
inconvenience - this was my place
to pass little Frank.

I must tell you something
which a Lady said to me
about you the other day.
She asked very seriously why
you wore those English whiskers,
it annoyed her very much
She went on to say - as she
loved to look at you before
you suffered them to grow,
considering you remarkably
handsome - (these were the
very words) and that you
entirely spoiled your appearance
by them. I rose up in defence
of your whiskers - and she
very pretty told me that I never
saw you without them.
This was a speech made by a
young Lady. Now for the
old Ladies' notions - your father
called the other day upon
Mrs Higgins - and was entertained
for half an hour by enconiums
upon your wonderful sense

Your father left for Bedford this morning. Miss Higgin's basque is made & arrived it is a most elegant one, it does not correspond with any thing she has, but I think she is delighted with it.

All send love to you.

God bless you & keep you from evil, ever your

aff^t Mother

Duncannon
Monday Mar 22nd 1858

My very dear Don

Your acceptable letter came to hand yesterday (Sunday) I am truly glad to hear that you are well, You have been out of your native air so many years, the northern latitude does not agree with you, the transient returns you make home always have the most salutary effect upon your health. It is wise in you to decide not to indulge in party going for I have no doubt that your indispositions in some measure are due to exposure & late hours, & besides it renders you indisposed to study & the duties of the following day, Do not for a moment think that I wish you to deny or exclude yourself altogether from the social amenities of life, It is the too much that makes the injury

Temperance is all things that are lawful is the safe side - The genial season is fast approaching which will I hope give you perfect health & spirits, & enable you to pursue your studies with pleasure & profit even to your utmost desire, The extraordinary religious movement which has recently manifested itself simultaneously in Europe & America & seems even yet to be in the incipient stage of progress is perhaps the most remarkable feature in the social aspect of the present age, It pervades every class embraces every Evangelical church, Dr Matthews commenced a protacted meeting last week, & it is still in progress, he expected Dr Rice of Chicago to assist him, but a revival in his own city & church prevented him, Every one that has a soul to be saved should in this most auspicious season ~~should~~ strive to enter in at the strait gate & obtain immortal happiness, If our probation is passed unimproved sad unspeakably sad will be our condition, The providences that are occurring to remind us on what a slight tenure our mortal existence hangs, speaks loud to be up & doing for we are utterly unable to tell when or how the summons will come, How strange! that we are so slow to be interested for our greatest good, Isn't it ~~not~~ owing to, & a strong proof of our depravity How else is it to be accounted for? Let each one endeavor to be wise in that wisdom which cometh from above, But I must not weary you & I am just going to the city & am in something of a hurry Mary remained in Ley last night

2 Monument Sq.
Charlestown 26 May
[1858]

My Dear Sir -

Mrs Merriam will receive about forty friends this eve, and we should both be very glad to see you -
Should Ricketson have gone home any friend you might wish to bring with you to keep you compa-ny would be very ac-ceptable -

Very Sincerely Yours
Chas Merriam Jr

To
Henry T. Duncan Esq

Lexington Ky
March 27th 58

Dear Henry—

Your most welcome & acceptable letter came to hand whilst I was absent from the city on business which detained me for more than a week—now without enumerating a long list of excuses as correspondents are sometimes wont—I hope you will at once see from what cause & rather justifiable this delay—which I fear might appear as negligence—in truth it results not that degree of importance—

It is ever a source of the greatest pleasure & gratification to hear from absent friends—to know that they are well and happy and enjoying life as much as many others—there is a time for all things—this time I feel assured will be with you—and you will be able to appreciate the pleasure I feel in being enabled to say that I have seen Miss Lillie attends this Class very regularly and is very pleasant & agreeable—Mrs Bell & Miss Lucie Nicholas left Louisville for Cincinnati on last Wednesday evening—all the gush & vanity of the city now passed—Mr B appears as usual & I am glad to say he is rather more of a man—Something of a nature very unusual occurred in Louisville on the evening of the 15th—I like the gentleman remarkably for the acquaintance—he is a practical & practical Christian—we are not mistaken—If it need not appear unfriendly to such you could do me a great favor in your next letter to inform me of the time you intend coming—I am anxious to see you—with those whom it is actually well afford me no end of pleasure—but you are more profitably employed—I say profitably—that as many others—there is a time

Write this will meet with a speedy reply—and you must address your letter to me as above—

Yours truly and affectionately
A. B. Matthews

encouraged in their pursuits — and still more gratified to think that I — though unworthy — am sometimes thought of — Now my dear boy we have commenced a correspondence which bids fair to prove of interest and information to one if not both, & let me assure you that your letters will always be perused with pleasant avidity, and always met with a punctual response, I almost feel the inadequacy of my epistolary powers — when I take up the pen to write to those, for whom I feel — I know my infirmities to compensate — but I will — I have always done endeavor to my utmost — Enough of prefacing —

Our City is at present unusually dull — the weather is perfectly delightful — no rains & clouds — & but little windy weather — strange for the month of March —

Nothing happening to attract the fancy of the passers by as to "What's the news" — One thing is worthy of note. & that is the religious feeling & sentiment that seems to be pervading the entire States, & which has at last found its way into our midst — which is to a certain extent having its desired effect by convicting — numbers have been added to the Church — & from the interest that seems to continue many more may be taken into the fold — thus continuing the good work for weeks are for months —

Amongst the gay and more thoughtless, no news of startling import — The Dancing Clubs have their regular

Duncannon April 3rd 1858

My dear brother

you must forgive me for not answering your letter sooner but I will not stay so long answering your next letter. I like my earrings very much I put them in as soon as I got them and have had them in ever since. I am very sorry you have been sick I will be so glad when you come home in the summer the garden begins to look very nice the flowers are al coming up I think we will have a great deal of fruit this year all the Cherry trees have large buds on them and the

peach trees are pink the weather is very
pleasant. I have a little garden of
my own it has some butter cups and
some violets in it. O how I do wish
you were at home now to catch some fish
Father goes down some mornings and catches
from thirty to forty fish and have them for
breakfast Mr Shepherd was out fishing
yesterday after noon and caught twenty.
We are very lonesome now Cousin James went
away Wensday morning at six o'clock and Father
went to Louisville this morning and sister
Mary and Miss Higgins went to take their
lesson. Mother is in bed with a cold and
a pain in her jaw but I hope she will
be better tomorrow. I am trying to make
a loaf of bread but I think I shall not
succeed. in Paris the other night the mob
hung a man on the railroad bridge was
not that very bad they hung him for
burning persons barns and houses. I
must now bid you ~~good by~~ farewell.
all send love to your beloved sister Lily

Lexington Sept 7th 1858

My Dear Son

I recd a few days since your last letter, I apprehend you must have missed some of my letters, as you do not mention all I have written you – I am rejoyced to hear of your improved health & with proper care & precaution I trust you will be restored to robust health – That you are getting on comfortably in your class is very gratifying – I hope you will pass through your junior year with decided credit & stand at the close of it a fine examination – avoid I entreat you this term all those unnecessary marks – for absence either at recitation or prayers, that were made last term – Have your ex=

swore revenge against all concerned – Some months ago a System of Burning commenced – among the party & confined alone to those that remained Lynching – Suspicion was excited against him & finally proof was procured that he was executing this thing through his agents – himself & another was arrested & committed to Jail his threats went further to poison their wells & springs – one well said to have been poisoned Society felt that he was a vile and dangerous villain – & their only safety was in his death – under these circumstances he was hung a terrible alternative – But he even warranted It was so in this case

All send you much love

Yr Devoted Fr
Th J Duncan

planations made at the office your return proved satisfactory? growing out of the complaint of Dr Walker in his letter to me - you have made no mention of them as yet I trust all things are righted up

A dreadful affair occurred last week at Paris - A large party - disguised and blacked took from the Jail of that place between 1 & 2 o clock in the morning - Bob Griffing & hung him upon the R R Bridge - which is near the Jail - Though Griffing was a vile character - he was in the custody of the Law - & was entitled to a trial - His offence was terrible - yet if true - the penalty of death was more than the Law fixed Confinement in the Penitentiary not exceeding 20 years was the legal penalty, for arson or house Burning - which was his offence - as the instigator and of course an accessory to the Burning of several barns and stables - The history of the matter is about this - Griffing lived for some years in the southern part of Bourbon - and carried on an extensive contraband trade with the Negroes - selling them whiskey & encouraging them to steal - thereby corrupting the slaves - this evil so increased that the neighborhood determined to stop it - He was called on by a large party & told that he must leave the County that they would pay him a full price for his property which they done - He left the County near 2 years ago

apr. 7th 1858

I have read with great pleasure the great speech of Mr Crittenden against this Lecompton fraud & iniquity - It is the crowning act of his life - It displays the the intrepidity & moral courage that so often distinguished the acts of his great Colleague and leader (Henry Clay) Mr Crittenden has shown himself a national man - above all sectional influences & a patriot & statesman, worthy the best days of the Republic - I should be surprised to see all conservative & National men from all sections rally around him with some Northern man (such as Everett) & run them for President & Vice President - Such a ticket as Crittenden & Everett - will

challenge the respect and confidence of every Patriot in the Land - This Association as a National ticket has been spoken of here among leading men, It would be a glorious day to the republic - when such a ticket could be elected

Yours truly

A T D

I am just on the wing to Bed

~~friend~~

Lexington Apl 13th 1858

My Dear Son

Your letter of the 7th inst came to hand on yesterday which is the first for some days, that has been rec'd from you

I enclose you a Check for $100 - which I hope will answer your purpose - It is a little earlier than I had expected to be called upon - I shall not be in funds before the latter part of June but having more, than will be absolutely necessary to meet current demands until that time - The $100 I send you is all that I can spare at present

We have nothing new here - since my last - The season is much advanced & beautiful It is now quite as forward, as it was ~~this time~~ by the first of May last year - The grass is very fine - I shall turn out on grass all my Stock day after to Morrow - Falcon has dropped the finest Colt, a filly - that she has ever produced - My mares are so far doing well in foaling - The fishing at the Bend is perfectly superb - A Tornado passed through the lot opposite the house on the rail R and uprooted some 20 large fine trees - fortunate it was, that it did not pass near the house

All well & send you much love

Your Devoted Father

H T Duncan

Dunearn
April 15th 1838.

My dear Brother

Accept my thanks for your kind letter, and also for the Opera's — I am delighted with them — I shall learn some pieces from them before you come home. how how delightful it would be if you could sing with me; I take my first song next Wednesday.

I am very sorry Miss Fay leaves Cambridge. Where will she live?

I have not written to you since you left home; it is too bad — but I have made several attempts although unsuccessful — you must take the "will of my letter all are well and join me in a "heart's full of love" to you — My silence shall not be so prolonged in future — Give my best love and kind regards to all inquiring friends — and write as soon as convenient to your loving and devoted Sister

Mary.

for the need". I received a letter a few days since from your "cousin" Coy - in which she made particular inquiries concerning you and desired to be remembered. She is anxious for me to visit her this summer, together with Mary Lafon, and Mary Agnew - I should like very much to do so. I also heard from Lizzie Kingsway - last week, she says they leave St Louis for the East next month - will spend part of the Summer at the White Mountains.

I should like to have Lizzie and "Lady Clara" visit me this summer, I am so anxious to see some of my school mates, I feel differently towards them from what I do to the girls here - there are none here that I can say I am intimate with. Miss Higgins is delighted with her Bonnet, she has bought herself a black silk skirt to wear with it, so that she has quite a handsome dress. Have the Pensioners been elected into the "Hasty Pudding" yet? I hope you will be one of the fortunate ones -

The "Lovely Hall" and "Stars & Spangled Banner", both desire to be very kindly remembered. We have had no "Chat" for several weeks - but they will be resumed next week - the next I think will be at Sissie Clays - There has been a continued revival in Lexington for several weeks, a great number have united with the church. Dr. Marshall was here a fortnight since - he says this great revival, which extends throughout the world is the precursor of some great event, this I believe is the general opinion; I wonder that we were among the number converted, instead of becoming better, it appears to me I become worse. Have you gotten back into the Episcopal Church yet? There is nothing of interest going on now, it is very dull - so that you must not wonder at the ambiguity

London. 17 April. 1858.

This for my dear Duncan, on our return. I should thank you for your very pleasing attention and excellent letter. I think old Howard would have shrieked without you to hear Mr. Sparks' kind commendations at the sound of your name. When there is nothing but good to be said it is worth while to remind our friends occasionally of our selves. And you nothing more to say of Henry? – that he is well is rumour very blessing. I hoped when I saw your hand for a word of his, and of Nick. Tell him I name him last intentionally, and therefore with an effort. He is ever mine with a peculiar interest, on account of his career.

I hear that the Immanuel-Bond-ons left Nice – and her Cambridge fellowship entirely in the hands, as to skating. Ah! when one has longed for the motion of a bird, may not one be half content with the mere physique of skating? I am

of us rock to raise from our giddy elevation. He left Rome to those Americans who would not believe in the powers of Italy, and from Florence turned northward. Paris charmed the children more than myself, although its magnificence far outstripped my fancy. Mr. Sparks led the gaiety, which hardly seemed disturbed than with us. Florence suffered from her intense "Pensionnat"-school, and has hardly recovered her strength. She "charmed" her teachers, certainly not from any wonderful scholarship! Still that merry "mark" was good in gratifying though by no means to significant of marks as that same 'in Cambridge'! She has made enthusiastic friends. Willie was at Geneva where he wished to remain. The "Barons" were there. Did they graduate before you entered? Mr Sparks liked them much. Willie's teachers fairly cried when he left, and wrote of him such testimonials as could only be outweighed in value by the frank acclamations "he deserves it all!" from his other friends in Paris. Little prattles French blunders addiciously. Beatrice is a general pet, likes to say "merci! monsieur mademoiselle!" and "to wish of being" an undertaking." Jane has been a constant charm and aid. I have now taken three over 1000 miles without a nurse and without difficulty in all every from weather, German and Italian waiting, and we are in excellent health. Henry is a great favorite with Sparks, and he is writing Sabine for Henry, & Henry is growing more and more like his father.

wonderfully interested in all that promises to furnish amusement to a people so strangely deficient in all that can gratify and make beautiful the natural love of nature as a relief. Let ours but once get a taste, and behold with time to mitigate it to home. You have heard much of 'coming abroad to learn to love your own country', and possibly have expected to be cheated to this home love by the neglect of others, or the natural longing for home ties, and indulgence for home faults. But indeed, time here and there in the magnificence of architecture, and of nature, in England, the refinements in art on the cultivation of succeeding generations — the comforts of America — and her business, her cities and her villages alike, far surpass all that is to be found in this world of the historical past. For that alone, and to me it is seldom satisfactory — one may linger here, and regret that he can only meet at home the imitations or the counterfeits.

In Milan, Genoa and in Florence we met the Jacobs, with much pleasure. July and part of August we passed in London. Edinburgh and Dublin detained us till the middle of September, when we crossed to Rotterdam. The Hague charmed us. Here the children first began to feel contented in Holland. England was to this home to annoy by pompous contrasts. Amsterdam, Brussels, Aix, Cologne, Frankfort, Strasburg, together quaint with or by their cathedrals, diverted or satisfied the eye. And indeed there is in Europe no point on which the light of remembrance lingers so fondly, or dwells so long as on those old cathedrals, combining as they do, the grand, the rich, the picturesque and the dear hallows. Home to the ear has been content with long drawn music, the eye with the chance harmonies of coloring. In Brussels we first saw the distant alps. They stood in white on a cloudless blue. It was impossible to imagine them of the earth, earthy. And their near approach did not mar this wondrous outline. Even now the tear which recognises the heavenly, dwells in my eye at such a recollection. Unexpectedly we arrived at Italy, and the dream of life was more than fulfilled as we sat on the marble roof of Milan, "fountain of marble!" with its thousand statues "suspended in air" above, on any pinnacles. So mixed in their light was that when, while I watched the clouds on the horizon of distant mountains, the near bell struck — I started with the sudden certainty that at this dread touch, the white palace must dissolve, and all the wonderful work of art, enjoyed, the Industry of ages, be no more.

Mrs Harrison Gray Otis
requests the pleasure of
Mr Duncan's
company at tea Thursday
evg next 8 o'clock.

Wm Vernon.

20th April — [1858]

You will I hope,
Mr Duncan, excuse
my seeming neglect
not-acknowledging
the receipt of your
unexpected & delight-
-fully sweet present.
I received it the
first of the month
& wrote you a note
the next day, which
I found in the

Book-Case yesterday
the gentleman in
whose case I placed
it, was as you may
well imagine in
rather an absent-
state of mind.
Allow me to thank
you for your kind
remembrance of
Fanny. C. Hodge
Elmwood
April 22nd 1858

Lexington Apl 27th 1858

My Dear Son

I received your letter a few days ago, acknowledging the receipt of my remittance of $100 – which I was glad to learn had come safely to hand – & I hope is sufficient for your present purposes

Since my last letter to you we have a visit from a Bostonian Mr Joseph P Gardner – Son of Jno L Gardner Esq – a gentleman to whom I had a letter when I visited Boston with you – He brought me a letter from Mr Jno Anderson introducing him – I found him an intelligent – well informed and agreeable young gentleman some 28 or 30 years of age. I suppose – of course we received him with due politeness & attention – while here

he attended a meeting of the Lancers Club at Mr Harrisons where he had an opportunity of seeing our Hills & heavys — He seemed much pleased with his visit & charmed with the beauty of the Country — I gave him an order to Bedford — Fat Cattle and Blue Grass pastures, seemed to take his eye completely — He says this is the most beautiful region he ever saw — He has seen nothing to compare with it except Old England — I presume he will hunt you up — and offer you the Comforts of his Fathers house &c

On yesterday the Jenaline mare the mother of your Sorrel Colt — had a fine horse colt in color marks & style matching your Colt, so that now you have a pair well matched full brothers — Falcon has had a fine Sythian Colt — which the racing men consider a perfect model — Old Brown Kelly has a fine colt of the broad head stock — So far we have had excellent luck with the Colts

Armstrad has run off — for his disobedience — which I had overlooked a long time — I gave him a thrashing, that I expect he feel off — I presume he is in the Neighborhood — and will come in in a few days If he does — I shall make him a signal example — I must either have more discipline or sell them all, they are becoming more worthless every day — I trust you are getting along more comfortably and satisfactorily in College — all well with much love

Your Devoted Father
H T Duncan

name's sake -

I regret to hear that Mr Lilsbee has thrown his influence against the great cause of temperance, for intemperance is making fearful havoc in the land, you can scarcely have a small gathering but some one goes beyond the bounds of propriety & decency - the rising generation seem to be falling into the practice of vice which is really horrible - we All desire much love to you We are under the impression that you have lost your love for letter writing as you seem on the short metre order -

Much love from your ever
aff ~~aff~~ Mother

Duncanson
Apr 27th 1858

My very dear Son

You are thinking that I am sadly neglecting neglecting you & careless of you a very natural inference from my long silence if it could be taken as evidence against me, nevertheless you are the object of my thoughts during my conscious hours, & if I could only gain your ears & possessed the power of interesting you how I would pour into your mind such thoughts & words as would rouse you to energy & zeal to seek an inheritance that shall never fade away one

of unspeakable & never ending
joy & happiness, In one of your
letters to your father you speak
to him of going to hear a great
actor on the stage, in another
of having been to a fine concert
only pleasure for the moment-
Oh how happy should I be to
hear you say that you were
going to those gatherings of
the disciples of Jesus, This is a
glorious dispensation & a time
to be highly prized by all
that desire the salvation of
their souls, No greater falacy
can possess you or was ever
sugested by the enemy of souls
than to put off the securing
the redemption of the soul
This is a most propitious season
for all that desire to obtain the
pearl of greatest price, Oh!
hearken to the voice of wisdom
& attend to the joyful sound
of salvation, the worldling may
smile, & the scorner may sneer
but the work of Grace will go
on & all that seek shall find-
Do be persuaded to seek the sal
vation of your soul which
is immeasurably above every thing
else, Consider not this the
utterance of a fanatick it is a
sober serious question that is
worthy the attention of the greatest
mind & one of the utmost impor
tance, I pray you be wise &
may God bless you & direct in
the way of truth for his

Lexington April
29th 1858

Dear Henry -

Your favor of the 18th came to hand in due time - which gave me much pleasure - and had it even been twice as long - as it really was - infinitely more would I have been pleased -

I am sorry our city is so very dull and destitute of news - I do not know what to say to you, in order that I may make myself as agreeable as possible - will report generally - not confine myself to any one particular object - You ask for the city gossip - the portion that would be most interesting to you - as well as to myself never reaches my ears -

The last Lawn Club met at Jas O Harrison's Esqr. which proved

a delightful entertainment - the company not too large - but most brilliant and gay - all appeared to enjoy themselves - Miss W looked prettier than I ever saw her before - I never did - in fact - think her beautiful - but she looked quite so - on that occasion - There was in attendance a Mr Gardner from Boston - and the report current was that he had visited this city especially to see Miss W - which may be true - but I do not think he accomplished much - nor do I think that he even laid the ground work to effect any thing "in future". A yankee presents a most striking contrast - especially when thrown into the company of Kentuckians - I saw nothing about the gent to dislike - but must confess that I noticed things that appeared to me as peculiarities - which may be consi

dent in Jackdom as accomplish
ments - they are however not in
consonance with our modes & cus-
toms - is it not singular - two
different people - in speech - manners
& customs - & I may say everything - living
within - a stone's throw - of each other -
did we see more of that people - and
know them more intimately - probably
the contrast - would not be so obvious.
I should like to know how Mr G - enjoy
=ed his visit to Lex - Henry I hope you
will not suffer yourself to be converted
into a yankee - but cling tightly to
the old fashioned Kentuck - the greate
-st people in the world - I have not
seen Miss W - since your last came to
hand - but will most assuredly
present your highest regards &c &c.
You speak of working out your Sal-
vation - I do hope you will - and thus
-by establish yourself the only consist
ent in the War - field - it will

be a glorious achievement - and
win for you from an undying &
never fading wreath of laurels of which all
will be envious - could I say or
do anything to encourage you in
this most excellent conquest - gladly
would I do so - I think it remains al
together with you - if you process this
will - I see nothing like an obstinate
to impede the way - only try - nothing
like trying - go into the arena deter
mined to come out crowned with
success - & my word for it - success
will perch upon your standard -
Mill Scott - is the only one I know of at
present paying attention to Miss W -
and as to his prospects - I cannot
express an opinion - not being suffi
ciently conversed - a victory is nothing
unless won over opponents - with contention
& vieing - I will see Miss W - at
Dr Bushes next Tuesday - the Club
meets then next - I will devote my
self to her - & endeavor to find out
all I can. I do not think Miss Howe
by ever read the card - you intended

and become more thoroughly acquainted with our Ky girls - before you conclude definitely - upon any one of the northerners - I am sure you can find congenial souls in this land of lands - this garden spot - this Athens of the new world - I wish you to be more partial to home manufactures - or to speak -

The fascinating Miss Nicholas - as some would term her - has left the city - she made quite an impression upon the hearts of a few young gents of this place - for instance R W Woolley - I like her much the best of the two - Miss Lenny & Nichols and consider the latter the most interesting - probably the less beautiful - If I am justified in calling either beautiful - we have ladies at home fair specimens to say - I've seen - imported from foreign markets - Are you well acquainted with these Louisville ladies - I know them both but slightly - met

for her - I've asked her several times about it -

Miss Mary Preston - Miss Davis & Miss McKliffe - are at present on a visit to the Old Duke - I have been intending to call on them - but can muster the courage to face such an array of beauty & intellect - as they deservedly enjoy - reputation - so lies - I wish you were here - we could "dear late" them to our hearts content - I do not think they have had much attention shown them - since their arrival & fear they will depart most thoroughly disgusted with Lx and its inimitable beaux - they have just gone to the country - now is my time to call - would you say so - I am fond of female society - but when I enter the company of strange ladies always feel restrained and somewhat abashed - but

you will laugh and say Frank I did not think that diffidence was one of the ~~ingredients~~ of your nature - you would any suppose the same - seeing me in the company of those with whom I'm well acquainted - Still without any affectation I must confess I suffer in a most painful manner - sometimes when I go to see even old acquaintances - & invariably when I visit strangers - it cost=es a struggle with my feelings to overcome this apparent "mock modesty" - but could you experience my feelings at times you would concur with me in my statement of facts -

There was a time - when seven men could with ~~no~~ difficulty drag me into the presence of females - & even at the present time I can safely say that I never called twenty times on a lady without - either a gent or lady to accompany me - it is a disposition of character that I do not make mention of in a boasting manner - for I've often hoped that I might overcome it - sometimes I fear I am hoping against hope - do you never experience this unpleasant an certainly uncomfortable sentiment -

I infer from your statement - that you know 25 females in mass to one in sly - that you are a great ladies-man - and in a most assiduous manner cultivate their most agreeable society - out of that vast number certainly there must be one if not more whose beauty, intellect - & fascinations have thrown a charm inscitable around you - and now that faithless gem, the heart of my young friend - tell me Harry am I speaking without any foundation of a probability pro or prostitity - I know there are many beautiful & fascinating ladies in the world - and how you will see

most of it –

I am happy to hear that the time is not so far distant when we may expect to see you in Ky – I would like to have a long chat with you; & wish you to hurry home – I have many things to talk to you about – which I can not place on paper – I hope you will not condemn this scrawl by saying that it has been unnecessarily spun out to the the great length – which it presents. It is writing much & saying but little – There is such a scarcity of news & even sense that it is with difficulty I can write at all – Hurry write soon and give me all the news afloat in & around Cam – I will be interested in any thing you write – The family desired to be remembered by you –

Your Friend F.R. Matthews

Miss Sophy Breckinridge married last night to young Dr from St Louis Stately I think is the manner he is the person who fought Blackburn in a duel – 3 years since

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there both at parties in this place & Louisville – Miss R-gave F Mates a rough hit – F.W. spoke in a poetic manner of her mouth – saying to go through her mouth would be the easiest way to get to her heart – She said yes – it would be, for one of his size – and that she would attempt it. were it not for his head – the bare mention of which caused a nausea – you must know I overloads his golden locks with a superabundance of mean hair oil – he cared – had nothing more to say – he is too presumptuous entirely – and I think at times very impudent – If I was a lady I would not tolerate him – F is running for County Atty in opposition to Mr Kinkead – he is confident of success – it is well that he is for truly – no one is confident for him

your friend Billinger is in a flourishing condition - prides himself on his efficiency to discuss the Lecompton Bill & Democratic principles in general - he is gaining ground among the ladies - after a long & tedious trial - is in love with Miss Molly - excitement concerning the.

The Revival has died away. the meetings discontinued - Mr Stiles of New Haven - has been preach for Mr Brank - & I fear very unsuccessfully - They continue the southern union prayer meetings. which are held daily in the Court House always crowded & some interest manifested - The Big gun of the North H W Beecher has killed himself with the South - & how could it be otherwise - after soliciting the prayers of the congregation for a slave who had run away from his owners in the south - & after trials & hardships arrived safely in N York - this together with some other, of his abolition movements - have disgusted and enraged the southerners against the fanatical hypocrite - does he hold much of a position in the state of Mass & what do you think of him -

The Great Mogul - The I. G. B. the Kiel Bus - was in town last week - looking quite well - all were glad to welcome him home again - I think he has returned to stay - Henry Clay is expected daily - I expect the Democrats will illuminate the city on his return - & dine him through the streets in a coach & four - It is a common & vulgar adage - "that every dog has his day" - he is having his - and his career is doomed to be one of short duration, hence he should make the

Dunearnon.
April 30th 1888.

My dear Brother

You will think me very slow in fulfilling my promises, particularly about writing, and really I cannot tell why I am so dilatory unless it it arises from my dislike to writing letters, there is always so much to say and so short a time for it, that one is obliged either leave off just as they become interested in it or else to have their letters like angels visits, "few and far between". Since I last wrote you informed of the movements of the young ladies &c. —

So Mother and I are going to Mrs Castleman's third afternoon, I shall have to bring my letter to a "focus" as Ell says. With much love to you from all. I am your devoted sister

Mary.

P. S. Give my love and kind regards to all inquiring friends.

to you, we have had the pleasure of seeing a Mr Gardner from Boston, quite a pleasant gentleman, he spent one night at our house and went to Bedford with Father, he appeared very much pleased with his visit to Ky—. I received an invitation from Mary Cushman to visit her in May— but I shall not go, if I leave home this summer I would prefer going to Boston, I should like so much to be in Cambridge on "Class Day" you must beg Father to take Mother and I on with him, Miss Higgins and the children could remain at home very well, for a few weeks— you must continue to keep it in Fathers mind. I am sorry & was rather surprised to hear that Rick takes no part in the performances on "Class Day", tell him I sympathize with him in his disappointment, I presume he will hardly send Sallie an invitation for Class day now, Father has bought a match for his Buggy horse, and they are said to be worth one thousand $ Your horse will be in harness soon, there is a match for him — a full brother two years younger — quite an infant yet —

The weather is delightful I never saw the Country looking more beautiful there is a prospect of some fruit, nothing of interest is going on, that I know of — I presume Frank Mathews will keep

Lex May 3th 1858

My Dear Son

I wrote you a few days ago from Chicago – on my return home from my Illinois trip in that I believe I gave you some account of my trip & upon getting home I found all well & in the midst of Strawberrys, such a crop we have never had – we have them in the utmost profusion – at Breakfast Dinner and supper – they are large & fine in addition Lilly – has undertaken to market them – she sends in 8 or 10 gallons ~~day~~ daily & has realized already some 20$ – I believe after Lilly had realized some 12 or 14$ & got into partnership with her in the trade Mary Taylor, is their market

but Duncan - My Old Illinois Buggy is fixed up for the daily trade - Our Cherries and peace are now coming in so that we have a sumptuous table & wish you were here to enjoy the fine fruits and Lamb & peace with us

I shall ship to Morrow my first lot of Cattle for N Y & regularly every friday - that is weekly - until I get through I shall leave for the North from the 15th to the 20 inst taking Philadelphia in my route - your Sister will accompany me - we will probably be a few days in Phila also in N Y - & from thence to Boston to visit you - Many wishes to join Robt Ford & Wife at New Port & spend several weeks there in Bathing & enjoying herself and await there, your getting through at Cambridge - when we will come out together this is the present plan

I wish you to order for me a new Suit of Black Cloth clothes of best cloth & send them out by express forthwith also a traveling suit - the Coat to be made after the fashion of the traveling ~~suit~~ coat you wore last Winter, a business coat It is important that they be put in hands at once - that I get them in time for my trip

I shall keep you advised of my movements

All send you much love

Your Devoted Father

A. T. Duncan

Mayor Mulryne - Minors - Father stand with us last night - He is a clever gentleman & superior specimen of an Ohio Farmer

Lexington May 3th 1858

My Dear Son

I rec'd from you a letter some days ago – Also one to Mamy & Lily has been rec'd

Since my last nothing of interest has occurred – We have been enjoying the fishing very much I went down yesterday morning and caught 48 before breakfast We keep our Barrel well supplied so that we can get fish at any time – Wish you could enjoy the sport with us – The season is remarkably forward & everything looks magnificent – I amuse myself in directing the breaking of young horses – We have some that are very promising and beautiful – I purchased the other day a complete match

to my Buggy horse for the
<u>nice little</u> price, of $300 - It
makes the most stylish and
Beautiful team I have seen
for a long time - my little
Carriage I shall have painted
& repaired especially to drive
them - My heavy Concordoure
I shall be able to match with
a young horse I have lately
had cut - they will make a
fine & showy match - so that
with a new Coach - my Buggy
& small Carriage refitted we
shall have - Equipage & Horses
enough - My Match Mares I
shall breed to Membrino -
Clays fine trotting horse but
enough of "Horsology"
Armstead is still runaway
he came home a few nights
ago & took his best suit of
clothes & started again - I begin
to think he may attempt to
get off - I shall not trouble
my self about him & care
but little if I never see him
again - In future - I shall sell
instead of whipping - They are
a great vexation & annoyance
I wish we were rid of them
entirely - My Beef Cattle are
looking superb in splendid order
I shall commence sending them
off in a month from this
I shall visit Illinois in the
mean time & endeavour to
go over the latter part of June
when the last of my Cattle
go forward - Some of them will
likely show their faces at
Boston - when you may stand
a chance of getting a cut
all well & send you much
Love Your Devoted Father
A. J. Duncan

Duncannon.
May 4th 1888.

My very dear Brother

I received your last letter on Sunday just after Church. I am sorry to hear of your complaining so often, what is the matter? Surely "Cupid" has not been molesting you. Just think of it in two months you will be at home are you not delighted to think of it? and then you will be a Senior!! I do not think you will be more pleased

sending you your invitation. My love and kind regards to all inquiring friends with much love from all. I am your loving and devoted sister

Mary. Duncan.

at that than myself.
I shall tease Father to
take me north with him
I presume Mrs Sparks will
be at home then, and
I have not written to
her yet, have you? I must
hurry about it.
Lady Lillie Greenough is
creating a sensation in
Bos. What does poor
"Pack" do now that she
has left Cambridge?
Were you aware that
you had reported in
Boston that Miss Higgins
was to be married. Her
friends have written
to her several times about
it, and they will not
believe her when she
denies it. They say that
Mrs Indor says Mr.
Duncan would never
have said such a
thing unless it was so.
But Miss Higgins intends
writing to you herself
when she receives an
answer to her last letter
you must not trouble
yourself to write to me
only when it is entirely con-
venient. I intend having
my "Club" the latter part
of May - Josie Clay has
her son Friday next.
Who do you think I
heard preach on Sunday
Langdon, he was
married last Tuesday
and he preached in
the Episcopal Church on
Sunday, of course I went
to hear him - and so
did Father. I neglected

Dunleavin May 7th 58

My dear brother

We are always so glad to hear from and know that you are well and happy you seem to write as if you were but we should be better pleased if you were at home with us all, every thing is so beautiful now the trees are all clothed in their summer dress and it is so shady and beautiful just like midsummer - there has been a great many Picnics sister mary has gone to one to day at the fair ground Mr Langdon is married and has been here with his wife

in the Episcopal church
he preached here last sunday
Father and sister Mary went
to hear him Mr Hangdon desired to be
remembered to you he married a
Baltimore lady and is going to live
in Philadelphia where he has been
appointed to a parish.
poor old Hasso is dead.
as soon as I finish my letter
I going to work on my new
dresses I will send you some
peases of them I will send you
a rose bud and some leaves
Father has just come and brought
a letter from you. Mother says she
is not afraid you of having the
measels for you have had a seige of
them. love to all your affectionate
sister Lily

I believe we have the finest wheat on the Continent – the crop improving – as the cultivation improves

I hope my dear Son that your health is well established and that you are able to get along comfortably with your class – and perform all that is required of you with credit to yourself – attend all recitations with perfect punctuality also prayers & church – that you greatly improve your average Indeed do & perform all – that required of you – It will not be much longer – that you stay – & that short period improves – the opportunity now lost – is lost forever

I attended a Club on Friday night at Mr Thos Clays – with your Sister – quite a pleasant party – The old gentleman enquired kindly for you – your Sister

Lexington May 9th 1858

My Dear Son

Yours of the 3d inst is at hand, you speak of not receiving a letter from home for some 10 days – this surprises me – I seldom permit a week to pass without writing to you – And I presume that other members of the family write to you, & mailed one day this week no less than 3 letters for you at one time – Their is surely some irregularity in the mails going East – Since my last nothing of particular interest has occured – We have had some fine fishing this week Have had a large surplus to give our friends & the Servants Besides this – Our fish Barrel

was robbed one night of a number of fish - by some chap - which I discovered early in the morning, when a Boy had been sent to take out and clean for Breakfast a lot Henderson & I commenced fishing immediately - to take a mess for Breakfast (as we were robbed) and we caught 50 - put 40 in the barrel & sent the rest to the Cook - What do you think occurred with them the next night? I had the barrel removed and put in a safe place from rouges - before the Boy's going down to take out a mess for breakfast - He found a large black snake in the barrel which had bitten every fish making a black spot as large as a dime - and every fish dead & stiff - The snake actually the forty fish in the barrel of course his snakeship, suffered the penalty of death for his boldness - & the hogs had the fish served to them - so you see in the fishing way we have had fine sport

Armestead has returned home moderately - this saved his bacon I was in hopes he would have been taken up - I should have cared him - But for the first offence I shall settle with him for old and new

I think I have never seen the country look so beautiful at this season - It is perfectly enchanting - All stock is looking fine - so far as my mares have foaled the colts look fine - the wheat crop promises to be the largest and finest ever raised in Ky

May 9, 1858

I suppose will give you all particulars

I think I shall be off for Illinois before long & spend some ten days – and if all things are suitable – it would be a pleasant trip for you & I in August to shoot grouse – How would you fancy it – that is said to be the very season for the sport – the birds are young & quelle them – and that suits, such hunters as I am when I go out now I shall visit Chicago & spend a day or two

A shooting match took place in the streets of Lex on yesterday between 2 strangers – a man from Alabama – Jas Ford of Louisville a nephew of Mr Jas C. Ford that you know – no damage done both parties arrested – particulars I have not heard – all send you much love your devoted Father

S. T. Duncan

My dear Mr. Duncan,

I shall be happy to drive with you, and chaperon the young ladies. Shall we say Thursday afternoon? It is the first day I believe, on which all the ladies of the party are free from engagements.

Shall we not

see you before Thursday?

Truly yrs.

C. I. Wilber

Mason St.

Aug 17th. [1858]

Chicago May 24th 1858

My Dear Son

I left home on last Wednesday for Illinois — I reached Mr Jenkins, the day after and took him by surprise — The improvements are not quite completed — But will be ready when you & I make our next trip out, the season has been very wet in Illinois and they are very much behind in their corn crop — no corn planted yet — It is too wet. and another hard rain to day — It rained on us home the root here ~~to day~~ His wheat crop looks fine — He ought to make 3000 bush He will have a good stock of hogs for market & ought to sell 1500 $ worth — I think hereafter the concern will pay well — I will if I live & can well spend a month with him next Spring, in hopes that I can give things a more energetic start & get in a larger crop — The Mr is deficient in energy & confidence — timid & hesitating — By pressing matters up things will do better for — I am determined to make a good thing of it — I shall leave this for home on to Morrow Morning & reach there on Wednesday to dinner 3 days before they expect me

Chicago Mon Jan 1858

My dear Son

Little Hans on her Washington for Illinois I received the following the day after we left him by Express. He unfortunately are not equally comfortable. He will be ready when you arrive. We expect Tod out. He seems to have been well in Illinois and they are very anxious to hear from you. It is too bad and we the hard times to day. It rained we have the last three days. He says his uncle and Aunt Jane. He says I pay $100 but he will have a good stock of hogs for nearly. Enough I sell 1500 worth. I think business the Farmers will be poor well I will I also some well about a month with this last shipping in before that I can pay. There is some anything short hogs in Chicago. But the is disposed in energy & enterprise business. The following quotations up this will be better for Farmers. I think a good thing I shall hold this for Farmers. Business is very good. Write to Thomas Business 3 days before they expect me

this I do because I purchased paper as I came through Cincinnati & engaged the man to ~~come~~ go over to morrow Tuesday & try and finish all the papering to be done & I think I had better be at home

I shall go north sometime in June looking after my cattle matters your sister is anxious to go on with me & visit Boston — She wished to be in Cambridge on Class day — But I think it is earlier than I can get off — you need not be surprised to see her

This City continues to improve, most wonderfully — since I was here last — a vast number of most splendid 5 story buildings have gone up — all Iron or Marble fronts they are equal to any thing in broadway they claim 150 thousand inhabitants, but this must be certainly an exagenation — with all you have heard off, you will be amazed when you see it

Before many weeks I trust my dear Son that I shall see you

With all a Fathers Love

I remain as ever

Your Devoted Father

H. T. Duncan

Lexington Ky May 31st /58

Dear Henry –

Your favor of the 17th inst came to hand in due season – the perusal of which gave me much pleasure and in return, accept with this miserable attempt my most heartfelt thanks for the same – I assure you Henry I will always endeavor to give you all the news astir in this little Athens, and any gossip that may come to my ears, hoping, by the exertion to please & entertain, to elicit prompt & full replies – It has always been one of my greatest joys to hear from loved friends abroad and to give them in return whatever fund of information I may possess – Nothing has happened recently to disturb the uniform monotony for which the city is quite notorious – Last week being the week of the Races of course our town assumed a somewhat lively appearance – notwithstanding, the greater portion of the throng was composed of that class of men – most despicable and loathsome to me – to all who have a high appreciation of principle – I speak of those, very properly dubbed Blacklegs – I understand they were all beaten on the races, and will have to beg money to return home, one – I attended the first of the Races – and became thoroughly disgusted – In spite of the Dancing Clubs – and while I think of it I will inform you that they are to be continued regularly

of your mind, at the same time she is a very estimable and lovely lady – by no means beautiful, "what say you" And while I am in this train of thought – I will inform you that another of your old acquaintances has been on a visit to this and report I believe used to say that she was exclusively your inamorata – I almost know to the contrary since she was your senior by four years – I mention Miss Lucy Webb. I met with her at Mr Higgins – was introduced to her and had quite a long conversation, in the which your name was mentioned – she spoke in a very elated manner of you – said that she always did like you very much – She told me herself that she was older than yourself – she seemed to know you very well – and often spoke of you to me during our acquaintance – which was quite limited. She has gone to Northampton to teach school and be schooled – thereby preparing herself for future engagement she expects to teach a year in New Haven – then go south and occupy her time in instructing – She was looking quite well – somewhat portly – addressed several times – in an indirect manner to her conditions – assuring that she never would be dependant for a livelihood on any one – She seems to have the right spirit – Walter Payne accompanied her to Louisville – I think he is smitten very deeply at that – such Miss Webb but I think it is all to no purpose at least no effect – I hear talked of no marriages – nor of persons letting to consummate such ones, the majority of our young ladies seem to manifest a preference for foreigners – if such is their determined intention I say let them glide "there are as many good fish remaining in the sea – as were ever taken from it" I give be little heed to such subjects – confine myself closely to my studies – and very philosophically say "let the morrow take care

through the Summer - I saw Miss Mary Higgins yesterday and from her I gained this information - The Club meets at her house on to-morrow night - from the list of invitations many will be invited - I wish you were here to go along with me - I know you would enjoy the entertainment - the Clubs are always agreeable and highly attended - I will see Miss Sallie on that occasion - but my dear fellow you are most woefully mistaken, in supposing - or even in imagining that I entertained for her feelings other than those of friendship - my enthusiasm as you are pleased to term it, was only drawn out from the feeling of interest I felt in your behalf - and always thought, until you last letter assured, that I had struck your proper channel - but I wish you to understand my position towards Miss S - I have always regarded her in the single light - of a friend - and seriously speaking, never for a moment cherished a different sentiment - I admire her extravagantly for her many fine qualities - but have also the same exalted regard for many others of our ladies, I sure could love her - her spirit never was one could be congenial with mine & when there is no congeniality, of course there is but little of love - I see that I was mistaken in your case - as you undoubtedly are in mine - I know you have a cultivated taste - & thought I could see you displaying it - in listening for affection upon the above mentioned lady - but probably you find that she is not of a nature & disposition most suitable for yours - And since you have intimated that another has won your heart - I believe I erred in supposing Miss S. was the preferred one - But that you may rely with implicit confidence in what I say - tell me all - I will not breathe the same to mortal man - I can keep a secret with perfect faithfulness - and I do hope that you will make me your confident - I am anxious to hear all - I feel confident that you have selected from the great number of beautiful & intellectual ladies who reside within the vicinity of Cam - one most worthy your esteem & love - if such is the case - bring the matter to a conclusion, such things should not lay on hands too long - Should I hear that affairs have terminated in manner most happily to yourself, I shall be truly rejoiced -

Bishop Smith preached last night at the Episcopalian church and performed the rite of confirmation on 31 of the number were Miss Harrison Miss L Clay - Miss N Bush - & Miss Ann Brand - among the gentlemen were Mr T Clay - & Mr A Bates - I did not know them all - Miss Lillie Brand was expected to have been present. She also to be confirmed - Since I have mentioned her name permit me to ask you a kind question concerning the individual - were you ever in love with her - or did you ever entertain a feeling that could ripen into love for her? I ask the question merely because I have often heard the matter discussed - and always took your part - saying that such a thought never took possession

May 31, '58

My dear Mattie I shall write with the pencil, as I have some short time remaining before the stage comes — I am very sorry that my disappointment prevented my visit to you, but I hope you will be able to come to us soon — I hope you are all well at home — I was somewhat disappointed at the Concert I was not fully satisfied — I had expected a great deal of pleasure — I was agreeably entertained — Mr T is not an amateur after all — he executes well and understands thoroughly music in all its parts & branches but he has acquired only what many others can attain, by undergoing the same practice long & tedious — The entertainment was generally looked on as a partial failure — some had a higher appreciation of it than others — We are having very disagreeable weather — incessant rains the crops are in a flourishing condition the grass and foliage is beautifully green — and in the greatest abundance — I saw a few trees at Charles Town loaded to profusion with peaches — Chas & apples — much larger yield & finer than was for merly anticipated — I was much obliged for the invitation to spend a few days at your house — I should have enjoyed myself exceedingly — but could not leave

home until I had seen Mr Barr & learn his decision — when I do commence I intend to go straight through with the thing — as I hope you are doing — Pa & Ma have returned from a long trip to the State of Ohio — I saw your sisters & Miss Pickett at Shalbers Concert last week — they desired me to give you much love — when I wrote — They are all well at your home — As to the Concert I was somewhat disappointed — my expectations were not fully realized — I hope you will be able to come to us soon — I shall be in very little hurry about leaving home — I shall wait until I hear from Mr Barr — I am very sorry that I did not see you when you were in town — I was very much pleased with your letter — I hope you will write often — I shall be very glad to hear from you — I am very sorry that I did not see Mr Barr — I am very jealous of him — I am

Yours truly

home at that time - I am kept constly engaged in the office & more especially at this juncture since Court commences the early part of June - & Mr Hanson, the gentleman with whom I am practicing law - has a heavy business - & I attend to a greater portion of it for him - bringing suits & filing answers, I should rejoice to attend your commencement but will await patiently the time that will present you to the public esq. as a candidate for the honor of A.B. - which is one year distant - I hope to be in attendance upon that momentous & I hope all auspicious occasion, you must exert your full strength - and let the Jewels in that old Kentucky is represented by a man well worthy her praise & admiration, you can do it if you possess the will - for invariably when "there is a will there is a way" I begun this letter early this morning but was called away on business - it is now after 2 PM and raining very hard - thunder & lightening - the clouds appear inky black - the whole country South is overflowed and great destruction the consequence, from Pittsburg to New Orleans, we hear of the devastations of the floods & such a one, as was never before witnessed, however we feel perfectly secure - I do not know of any thing further to write about - Gossip is at a low ebb such being the case you know - there can be no news - Write soon & fully - all the family send their regards to you - Your friend sincerely W. H. Matthews

Lexington Dec 3rd 1858

My Dear Son

I wrote you on yesterday in closing you a check for 250 $ on bank of America N Y – which I hope will come safely to hand

The young people are out almost every night – frolicking 4 nights the past week – so that you may conclude they have had a merry time this Christmas – Miss Higgins is making quite an impression – with Old & Young – of her superior mental endowments – her wit & brilliancy – but though not least her fine personal appearance – I should not be surprised that she becomes Colonized here

I am still unwell but improving – Rheumatism in my arms annoys me much – which with

Influenza has made me very good for nothing — I suppose though I am getting to be an old man which should admonish you to an active & vigilant exertion to get ready, to take my place & enter upon the arduous & responsible duties that await you — to take my place & manage for yourself & Sisters

You have not had a line from you for 10 days — I trust that will in due season get my letter of yesterday The 2 with enclosure

Yr Devoted Father
H. T. Duncan

we have nothing new here
All send you much love
Your Devoted Father
H. T. Duncan

Lexington June 7th 1858

My Dear Son

I have rec'd your letter acknowledging my Chicago letter – You mention your failure to hear from home for several weeks previously – this is surprising, as I have mailed several in that time – on one occasion 3 letters from different members of the family – and for myself – I have rarely permitted a week or ten days to pass without writing – this is my second since my return home from Illinois – though I have complained to your sisters about their not writing oftener – I hope they will make amends in the future

I returned home last

night from Bourbon where I went early yesterday morning to weigh & stand my second lot of Cattle 70 head - they weighed fairly 1759 lb average - taking this lot & 70 last Saturday that was started that day - make an average on the 140 head of 1717 lb the largest lot of Cattle of that weight - that ever left the County & if prices were only as they were last would bring more money I hope their fine quality, will command an advance price & ready sale - though they go fast and with a crowd - there was from 4 to 500 in the pens at Paris to ship this morning

I have been to several parties with your Sister since my return One night this week we started at 8 o'clock - (that being the earliest hour that she could get ready) to Brutus I Clays in Bourbon drove nineteen miles - got lost in the woods for a time & reached the house at 11 o'clock - they were at Supper - spent 2 hours & returned home, by half after 5 in the morning - having spent the entire night in traveling & at the party a nice frolick for a young gentleman like myself

In my last letter to you I ordered some clothing - if it could be made & got here in time, before I started East which be in the course of 10 days - I fear it will not be in time - we shall go by way of Phila - where I propose to purchase a Carriage & hope to do some shopping & have some work done - we will be unable to reach Cambridge by Class day - But I will keep you advised of our movements

Dunemanon.
June 14th/58

My dear Brother

You doubtless think you are forgotten by us all – not having received any letters recently – I know of no better excuse than laziness – which appears to be an epidemic; Really it is very hard sometimes to find a subject to write about – that will interest you – however I think I have at last something agreeable to tell you.

are just about starting for Lexington – to see Mattie Jones – who has been here for a week past –

I attended a party at Ellen Woolley's last Wednesday evening – given to Miss Scott and Miss Brown of Frenchport

I expect to have my "Lancer Club" this week – so there is nothing of interest to communicate – I shall close with Oceans of love to you from us all –

Mary Duncan.

Father and I have home for the North – next Monday afternoon I am anxious for Father to let me remain at New York with Bob Ford and his wife until you are ready to return home. What do you think of it? And then I wish to have Lillie Greenough and Lizzie and Clara R– return with us – What a grand frolic we should have. Might return by way of Niagara – how splendid!! Father told you of Mr Lowdon's visit to the "Athens of the West" – he seemed to enjoy it very much – I shall mention none of the particulars – as Miss Higgins (notwithstanding her vow never to write to you again) says she intends to enlarge upon that subject. Father and I attended at party at Burtus Clay's last week – left home at eight o'clock on Tuesday evening – and reached Clay's as they were at supper – there we remained two hours and a half – and started for home – which we reached at five Wednesday morning – I do not think our experience of Bourbon parties will induce us to undertake a like adventure – I forgot to say the night was very dark – and we were lost in a thicket woods where we wandered round and explored – for more than half an hour. Brother & I

Lexington June 15th 1858

My Dear Son

You have not heard from for some days

I wrote some 2 weeks since ordering a dress suit of Black Cloth Coat Pants & Vest - & to be sent out by Express - Also a suitable travelling suit - If they have not been started before this reaches you they will not be in time - so that I can get them upon my arrival at Boston - I shall start early next week - I must have tidings of my Cattle sales, before I leave to determine upon the shipment of the balance, which I will do if prices suit

I did not mention to you in my letter of last week that a Cambridge acquaintance of

had visited here recently Mr Snowden - a graduate of the last class of 57 - He appears to be an intelligent genteel young man having the manners of a gentle=
=man

I am anxious about my cattle sales - The appearance & prospect of the market is rather gloomy for good prices & the weather too hot for cattle as heavy as those I have sent - They weigh very heavy - I shall leave between Monday & Thursday of next week - tarry in Phila a day or two - also in N Y a short time & reach Boston not until week after next - But I shall advise you of my movements & advise you of the time of our arrival

All well & send you much love -

Your devoted Father
H T Dimmock

know a person thus afflicted is disqualified for any duty & pleasure - however I lost sight of it - & enjoyed myself until the "Medina hours" - Every one seemed to do likewise & all have experienced the same sentiment with myself - I missed you often during the evening & frequently spoke of you & how you would have delighted in being present - I wished for you and your social folly laugh & merriment - But I hope this summer to enjoy with you many clubs - and to pass if possible some of those hours of life which when refered to in days ~~gone~~ to come & go will be recollected as among the happiest & most pleasant of our fruitful pilgrimage through this life of trouble & care - I feel that our Spirits, if not now - can be come congenial - that we can enjoy our mutual society - I think I have

Lexington June 21 1858

My dear Henry -

Your truly welcome letter came to hand on last Friday - after a very speedy flight from the place of its birth - it being but two days - It found you humble servant enjoying good health - also surrounded by a pile of musty documents which might have been drafted during the reign of that craft so often made mention of in Holy writ - I have been preparing some papers for the Court of Appeals and the Atty Genl of this State - which have given me much trouble and no little labor - I always do what ever my hands find to speedily & promptly - never permit any duty to be unattended to - To day has been one

of comparative rest & cessation from duty since the Judge is absent & business can not progress you know with out him — Our Circuit Court is being held at this time or rather a Special term to try some criminal & chancery cases, no very important cases however will be tried — Since a continuance has been granted to those of the most important nature — The fiend who shot his wife — in the vicinity of Nicholasville — some weeks ago has been tried, & sentenced to be hung in July — the mob would have taken summary revenge had not the Judge appointed a Special day to try the case — Every one concurred in the verdict — but only regretted that the day of his execution was not nearer at hand — It is high time that the law was being enforced — daily news reach our ears of the perpetration of crimes dark & damnable — but seldom do we hear of the execution of the rigidity of the law — which is only to act as a safe guard — and deter the further commission of criminal offences — Seeing the study of the law is becoming to me a fascinating performance — I become more & more delighted with it & the further I proceed the more fully am I convinced of my ignorance of that branch of science profound & immense —

But my dear boy to diversify let us talk a little on some of the topics which I fear engross too much of some persons attention — I will here tell you that I attended the last of the Lectures at your Fathers on Friday night last & enjoyed myself exceedingly I've been to all of them & can say without the slightest hesitancy that it was the most brilliant & agreeable of the entire series — I was quite unwell but forgot my affliction — have been sick with something like the flux & you

dance - Some peaches in expectancy - Strawberries & cherries have been some of our principle luxuries -

My Father & Sister may leave for the North in the morning - you will see them ere this reaches you if they go direct - which is doubtful since he expects to be in N.Y. on the 4th July - Your family are all well - I have heard of no preparations for the 4th in what do you in Mass. When does your Regatta come off or are you a member of the club that contends for the championship of Harvard - Our city has no musses or parties in anticipation - no weddings spoken of - nor any thing of an exciting & memorable nature - Our people desire to be remembered to you - Write soon my dear friend I'll expect a long letter ~~soon~~ from you

Very affectionately your friend F.R. Matthews

June 21, 1858

found in you a "man after my own heart" of whom I have met but few - I know many - see many - talk with many - but find very few with whom I could permit my feelings to grow in common & affiliate - I hope I have not been mistaken in you Henry - I generally know what I feel before I speak - but am like any one else liable to err - I am anxious to see you - & will greet with pleasure the time that brings us face to face -

Several of your young ladies are at present absent from the city - inclusive of Miss S - with whom you think I am smitten - I said, I thought enough in my last to convince you to the contrary - I think her a magnificent lady - & very fascinating - but most sincerely disavow any "soft" affection for her - as to the pickings I care but little - I would have the

lady & not any thing that she might pos=
=ess & if you knew me you would say to
yourself - I am in search of happiness
in this life - & to wed money & be en
cumbered with a person I did not
could love would make me miser
able - but two loving hearts can live
happily, in a cottage - If I never su
=ceed in getting a wife it will be
because I never loved, some would
not care for love or any thing of the
kind - so there was plenty of the cash -
not me I tell you my dear boy -

You promised to advise in me a
secret & that you have not as yet
done - I informed, as will any one
with whom I am intimate - you, that
I could "Keep a a secret" - you must
post me up ~~up~~ ~~up~~ - I am anxious
to hear, while at the same time wish
your every attempt immiminently success
=ful - Strike blows that will tell & im
press - take a stand & be immoved
firm & resolute - & you can not but su
=ccede - such has been the conduct
of him who has succeeded, notwith=
standing the oppositions & obstacles abor
=iously thrown in the way - you have
my heart & hand in the affair and
a willing god speed you -

We expect a stirring time in town
to-night - Mr Crittenden is expected to arrive
& to address the citizens of this city -
an enthusiastic meeting is expected -
the Rifles & citizens & musicians
await him at the covington depot -
he was gladly received in Cin O. and
in a manner really cheering & grati
=fying to Kenty pride - Since I
begun this it has commenced to rain
very hard - I fear it will, to some extent,
interfer with to nights proceedings -

We have been singularly blessed
this Summer with rains & refreshing
showers - the crops look well the
grass green & fresh - fruits in abun

Lex June 22nd 1858

My dear Son

We shall leave for the North this afternoon at 2 o'clock – by the train which carries this letter & by the time it reaches you I shall be in Phila – and next week in Boston –

I rec'd the box of clothes by Express in good time, you have had the order filled well – the fit is first rate – and I am entirely reconciled to your change of the order from a dress to a frock coat as it is the fashion, and all the go, as you say

Your letter I duly rec'd – & always so welcome

I have now shipped 3 lots of Collets & shall ship 2 more – they are not bringing as good prices as I expected, yet enough to make a decent profit

I shall soon see you my dear Son & notify from N Y of the exact time I shall be in Boston – All send you much love – Cantata held on brilliant reception here last evening

Your devoted Father
N. J. Burgess

New York June 27th 1858

My Dear Son

We arrived here last night from Phila safe & well – We found that place terribly hot & unpleasant –

We spent a couple of days there – shopping & trading – among other things I ordered a Coach to be specially built, which will not be done before fall – I think of purchasing one of those Germantown buggies – a beautiful & graceful vehicle – comes light will accommodate 6 persons – be a suitable vehicle for excursions off the turnpike – a light Carriage & will save a fine Coach in bad weather

My Cattle sales have not equalled my expectations – I go to Albany to night – where I shall meet a lot & close up with my agent – I shall stop any more corresponding at present

Upon my return from Albany we shall do a little purchasing & go on to Mass two after we get through – wednesday or thursday

In haste

Your devoted Father

H T Duncan