description of the Carriage I wished built by him & requested him to write me a letter on the subject informing me the price for such an establishment & to send me out a drawing of same — I have not heard from him — And will thank you to go down some Saturday & see him on the subject & inform him of my plan & wishes

During my absence this week one day at Bedford with Mr McKennan — Mr George Bancroft (the historian) called at my house to see me. He brought letters from the Andersons to me. He spent 2 hours with your Mother & Mrs Higgins and made quite an impression. I regretted very much upon going into Lex next morning to call upon him to find that he had left — As I had made all arrangement to invite a Company to meet him at dinner — I should have gone in after night to see him, had I not been supposed that he would spend a day or two as your Mother so understood him — As my paper is out I will close & write one of these days about your examination of your head — It strikes me pretty correct — All send you & Mary much love and many kisses — Yr devoted Father

H. J. Duncan

Lexington June 7th 1857

My Beloved Daughter

I received your 2 letters on Friday and day before — for which you have a thousand thanks — And you but know how very gratifying it was to receive your letters — you surely would more frequently write

In relation to the sewing machine, as you have your heart so set upon it — and even fear that disappointment might involve your stability — we shall have to purchase it for you, so that you can qualify yourself for its management

We have had and just got through with the General Assembly — It was decidedly the ablest body of men I have ever seen — distinguished for talents learning & piety — Some of their discussions were very able — They were in session some 2 week — numbering some three hundred members — even among their lay members some of the ablest men in the country

They speak of their entertainment here as surpassing any they have met with, all houses were opened for their accommodation. Our people seemed to lay themselves out to make them ~~selves~~ comfortable & feed

them with the best the land afforded
even this with some was not sufficient
owing to the lateness of the spring and
scarcity of vegetables - I ordered by express
and abundant supply of fresh peas put up
in France - in cans - Also the Tomato - and
Fresh peaches - which with our own raising
of vegetables - Straw Berry's &c &c we kept a
sumptuous table - And had they not have dined
generally with Mrs McKee - we should have
been swamped - I believe I mentioned to
you in a former letter who were our
guests - Dr Prime & Son of N Y (Editor of
the Observer religious paper) a copy of
which he told me he would foward to your
brother - while he was engaged in writing
his Lexington letters - which will be, doubt
less very interesting & particularly so to yourself
and your Brother - Your Old friend the
Revd Jas McKennan - whom you better will
recollect as one of the purest & loveliest
of men in his character - a perfect speci=
men of Nature - The most guileless of men
Indeed a model of all that is pure and
pious - with uncommon good sense and
much humor - to him he left us It was like
parting from one of our own family
He was deeply affected - so indeed was your
brother & all of us - You were my dear
children the subject of frequent conversation
and of daily prayer
Dr Stratton of Natchez was another guest
a learned divine, fine speaker, indeed one who
comes up fully to your idea of an accom=
=plished and finished Christian gentleman
Mr Spear a missionary in China for 14 yrs
of course he was very interesting - from his intu
=mate & accurate knowledge of that, extraordina
ry people - But my impressions generally of the
leading & master minds of this great body, I shall
defer until I see you
My dear Son
I have duly rec'd your letters of
this week - which was gratifying - You mention
that you do not receive as many letters as
formerly and ask, why It is so, until I had
recently thrown upon me the heavy correspondence
growing out of this 4th July affair - I answered
and promptly all your letters - In order to
perfect all arrangements for this Pageant
I have been compelled to neglect - my business
& all things else - I have written you on that
subject & sent you a package of invitations
in — which I hope will come safely to hand
You will recollect that I wrote to Enoch
Baily the Carriage maker - giving him a

Lexington June 11th 1857

My Dear Son

Enclosed I send you a Check for $200 to pay off your Sisters bills & expences home

All are well I have not time to write you a letter of any length

Your Sister named in your letter to your Mother something of a New Piano – She must be patient and wait a little – I will indulge her in due time – You know my engagements are heavy for next month

All send you both much love & many kisses –

Your Devoted Father

P S Lotten is your Sisters team out – She says she will leave the following day – It is best to be off as soon as possible as the Cars will be excessively crowded – the 2 or 3 days before the 4th of July

H T D

Lexington June 11th 1857

My Dear Son

Yours I received on yesterday and am surprised that you have not rec'd the invitations directed to you — If I am not advised of their coming safely to hand in a day or two I will forward you others

I rec'd a letter from Mr Silsbee throwing some doubt upon his coming — yet I hope he will come for I know no so suitable opportunity for your sister to come out

Adams the monument superintendent has gone on a furlough to my annoyance leaving his hands up hill while he is getting pay for his services from the ~~superintendent~~ association — I will say to you confidentially that more acquaintance

give us the particulars — did you enjoy the last party at Tudors — did you make any acquaintances among the notables Pierce & Fish were there — did you make the acquaintance of the latter and how did he impress you &c

We have abundance of fine Strawberries — we are taking plenty of fish & the country never looked more beautiful I hooked a fish (no doubt one of the original Bass) the other evening — and he dashed off — my line — not being the slightest obstacle to his impetuosity of movement — and snapped in twain from the point of hook — All well & send you much love & many kisses — also your dear sister

Your devoted Father
H T Duncan

has impressed me with an un=
favorable Idea of his reliability
though a man of some taste and
sprightliness – He is fashionable
licentious & Idle – and I am un
willing to have any closer inti
=macy – than I have – These hints
are given for the benefit of
yourself & Sister – He would not
scruple to call on you to borrow
money – If he should come to
Boston – In money matters he is
unscrupulous – avoid any transac
=tion with him – If Mr Silsbee does
not come out – I should not fancy
him as an escort for your Sis
ter – He is one I wish to be un
=der no obligations to – This is a
sufficient hint

We are pressing our actively
all pre=parations for the 4th It
takes all my time – I do my own
business and others – The object
of this letter is to make en=
quiries about money matters
with my last remittance drs
Parmelee (Park Bank of America
N Y) Check upon Boston – with
what I left you be sufficient
for your Sisters purpose and
buying her home – Also as to your
own money matters – As my pay
ments in July are heavy – near
$10,000 – But they close up & are
the last of my land payments
making the future comparatively
easy – Here drafts upon my
purse you should bear in mind
and be governed by

I hope you went to Mrs Otis's party
an occasional indulgence of
this sort is beneficial to your
manners – and gives you agreeable
associations

Lexington June 24th 1857

My Dear Sora

Yours of the 18th (a very interesting letter) I have this moment received — I have barely time to write you a line — I am in the midst of labors connected with the preparations of laying the Corner Stone of the 4th of July

I sent to your address last week a check for $200 for your Sisters use which I hope came duly to hand — I now send you for your own use a check for $250 — which I hope with what you have on hand will answer your purpose

I hope we shall see some of the Boston yachting and military — We shall have a brilliant affair of it and all pass off well

All well & send you a many much love

Yr Devoted Father

A T Duncan

Duncannon June 25th '57

My very dear son

For one cause & another I have omitted writing to you for a long time, but will now despatch a few hurried lines for I have so much to do & but a very short time to accomplish it. Your father received a long letter from you on yesterday It is really refreshing to hear from you & so delightful to feel that you will be with us so soon, the papers say that Mr Everett was to address the graduating class of Harvard on the 18 inst, I do wish you & M—could have returned together. She is now very busy as there is only one day more before she leaves, I am glad that she is to take a different route for it is so tiresome to go over the same so often, A letter from Mrs Ford yesterday announced the intelligence that Robert & his wife were in New York & that they would remain East during the summer. Your cousin Mary Ford & family are going on to pass the summer at the sea side with Robert &c.—

Great preparations are in progress for a grand display or pageant on the 4th of July, I do most sincerely hope that it will

helia trope," Poor lady! I really do feel so sorry for her, she has such a distressed look, E. D.—

June 57

pass off in a grand & pleasent style as your father has something to do with it. Combs after consenting to be Marshal while your father was in Ills he took offence & gave it up, & has been doing all he could to embarrass the arrangements for the day. Your father has been fortunate to secure the services of Capt Beaufort who is in all respects superior to the Genl of Lexington who is a small fellow. The sad intelligence came yesterday of the death of Dr Young - President of Danville College it is a grievous providence to lose one so gifted & qualified for any position, he passed a night with us during the sitting of the General Assm — he looked then as if he was not long for this world his health has been bad for some years. But our loss is his gain no doubt. The vacancy in Transylvania is thought to be better filled by a Kentuckian if one suitable can be secured, Miss Higgins has received a letter from Mr or Mrs Mitchell of Boston about the appointment to be made. I have read the little book you sent, it is rather an interesting story, but I do not see that it is any representation or correct view of life in Ky or any where else that I am acquainted with.

Dr Green has a daughter at Miss Haines school in New York, & expects to return about this time with Mr Adams of Leys I wish M would happen to meet her in travelling out it might happen to be pleasent for each of them —

The examination of all the schools has been going on for the last two weeks, The graduates in College are to make their speeches this evening. There are the City schools, Miss Jacksons & the "Tayre Institute", all coming on at or about the same time, creates a merry time, all anticipating the pleasent holidays, no doubt the pleasure of vacation will be greatly appreciated this hot weather — wishing you a pleasent time I must bid you adieu for the present All join in much love to you

Your ever off & Mother

P.S. Oh! I had liked to have forgotten I met Mrs Morrison at church, as usual she enquired for you & said give my love to Henry & tell him I always associate him with roses. Having some in her hand at the time I Verbene, &

Salem June 28. '57

My dear Sir

I write merely to say that I intend, as heretofore intimated, to start for Kentucky on Saturday afternoon, & shall be happy to meet & take charge of your Sister at the Eastern Railroad Station. I believe the train starts at three o'clock.

Very truly Yours.

Hattie Gilsher

H. T. Newman Jr.

Duncannon Sep 2nd
[1857]

My very dear Son

You are ere this I trust safely moored at old Harvard in high health & spirits, resolved to aim to an eminent degree in all that is moral & literary, & therefore make you useful & happy, Strive for mental excellence & strict integrity this will make you the companion of the wise, intelligent & good,

Oh! I do miss you so much! & can scarcely realize that you are so distant, I hope you did not suffer with the cold travelling at night, with us they are quite chilly but much more so along the Lake Shore, Your father expected to hear from you at Cin by telegraph or letter & seemed a good deal disappointed by not

receiving some communication from you, I am left alone with Ellen & Lily your father went to Louisville to day, they will have a grand time of it no doubt; Nothing of interest has transpired since your departure, two News papers came to Mary's address from Superior - on yesterday they were from some of the Moir's I expect, As I drive to town this afternoon you will excuse this short epistle if it is worthy the term, so good bye my dear son God bless you. Your ever afft.

Mother

Your sisters desire to be most affectionately remembered to you

You will be good enough to hand my note to Mrs G.—

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Since then I have been very busy
— Now I propose saying Good bye.
and asking an early reply from your friend
G. M. Roth

Should you write direct
your letter to me, Care of Dr. Samuel B. Ely of
this place

Sept 2. 57

Louisville Sept 2nd 57

Dear Henry.

To doubt having had the pleasant manner of our correspondence before, and to might having had the pleasure of meeting your sister at Mrs Hordes I have now an irresistable impulse to trouble you with a letter — however, not in answer to any of your kind favors

Your sister mentioned your good intentions and explained to me why you have not written, also informed me — as I had guessed — that your academical duties keep you closely employed — & in fact leave you no leisure moments which you might devote to your friends

Yet struggle has my sympathy, since twice tide have driven me against waves that would when hope & ambition were less strong have overwhelmed me; but, a high flow of feeling and a clear eye searching the halls of sun-tinted air — cast these made me powerful — the thought of imminent danger, has made giants of pygmies! —

Nevertheless it would be very pleasant to know that your memory is not treacherous; and nothing will more strongly prove it than (if no more) a few lines — jotted down — to your friend, thus, I making all issues will expect if not a long, a short letter from you before a great while. —

If my pen were unfettered — I would endeavor to squeeze into a letter — a reputable show of amusements & excitements now controlling Louisville's exclusives

— The starting point is the Fair Grounds with its accompaniments — fine horses — cows, sheep — great men — little men — fast ladies modest women I might as well mention pick-pockets — as they are posted.

The grounds I understand are rendered more convenient & are much more beautiful than last year.

A neat & elegant building has been added — called the Floral Hall, where one is regaled both the odors of many flowers — of many and rare tints.

Next the Mechanics Fair held in a large building erected especially for that purpose on the corner of 4th and broadway.

This is the most pleasant place of resort. — With the many mechanical wonders & artistic pieces were blended the soft sweet voice of woman to add a ten fold charm to the easy-working — model engine the toy saw & the exquisite painted by a young child and the affecting strains of Music — that latter of itself — we well know fills a room with miserable watchers to keep the joyous smile & sparkling eye ruling this assemblage. —

In the building is a large bell that causes a much greater excitement — perhaps commotion than ought else within that large warm weather-bedded palace. Strolling through the middle isle — which is filled with cases contain the best handy-work of every description and in the center of which is a beautiful fountain stands, tossing a sparkling stream upon the central chandelier, you are led by the current around and down another where the model furnished bed room stands, the toy saw is working and the "still" Engine is giving its busy hiss.

Would be useless to enumerate the different kind and mechanical & artistic wonders that crow the hall; then, we will ascend and walk around the gallery above which extends about 8 ft wide and extends around the whole inside of the building — Then we almost lose sight of the object of the association, while moving through the crowd and watching characters grouped about the angles in gallery and the couples of course of males & females — seated along the side near the windows — perfectly devoted to each other and having upon that indigestable mixture Love & Hope.

At eleven o'clock the bell is rung and the crowd dispersed ——

Again (as a polemic writer would say) we went to the Post Office we are stopped by the potent sight the fat Woman, here! and lo! crowds of boys & country folks stand and gaze at the sign — some amused and some — perhaps from the Country — exclaiming now and then How nice! ain't she — hey! — Certainly — she must be this warm weather — these unnatural dog-days require it of one of such dimensions.

4th — Two nights ago I wrote the above & with a flush of feeling might have written much more but was interrupted at that late hour 12 o'clock

Lexington Sept 13th 1857

My Dear Son

It is now some two weeks since we parted with you - which has been fully occupied in fairs fuss & folly - I went down to Louisville after you left & returned the following saturday with the girls - I do not think they had a remarkable pleasant time, in the crowd - they were at a large pleasant party at Prestons, which I attended with them - I reserve some particulars to tell you when I see you

The affair here this week has been very pleasant - good Company Pick nicks - Lots fancy Balls & parties - I was out 2 nights with your Sister until 3 o'clock - a little too fast for me

I duly rec'd your letter upon your arrival at Cambridge - also yours to your Mother reached us on yesterday - which of course gave us great pleasure - though we regretted to hear of your sickness

Did you make your contemplated call in the State of Ky? my attention is called to this subject from the reciept of a letter to myself - from the young Lady - desiring from me an answer - which I shall give in respectful terms - of my objections to her

Mr. Lt. T. Duncan jr
Cambridge
Mississippi

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this has led me to fear — that if you have met her — you have not been as explicit & fully understood as you should have been — As I consider the letter to myself of very questionable propriety — for this, that she should have written to me at all, under the circumstances — It shows a disposition to persevere — incompatible with proper delicacy of sentiment — I am satisfied that their is but one course — And that is to drop all correspondence on your part, For while any intercourse is kept up, whatever — she hopes to make it of account in complicating the affair & bring about a renewal of the engagement — I shall write her a kind & plain letter which I trust will prove satisfactory — so far as such a thing can be done, with the feelings of disappointment, she must experience — If you did not make the contemplated visit — write her a note perfectly explicit — From the tenor of her last winter note to your Mother & my self, I suppose she was off — But I fear you have encouraged hopes by your indecision & continuing to correspond with her — This should cease, It should have ceased last winter — upon your visit to N. Y. It will only keep up hope — which is wrong — Last winter you released her — then it should have ended — That is all intercourse personally or by letter — I will send you a copy of the letter I will write her that you may understand my position in this correspondence — Her letter to me ~~is~~ does not furnish any evidence of superiority of intelligence but is disjointed & unconnected & as I said before of questionable propriety — But I shall answer it with proper respect & frankness

I sent you by mail — a copy of Dr B great speech — read it carefully & give me your opinion of it — I shall send a lot of them to Boston for sale — I have read Mr Manners letter and shall answer him soon — We have been in the midst of so much frolicking at the fairs, that I am behind in my correspondence

The whiskey order I shall attend to when I go to Westerlo — for both Silsbee & Brewer

I ~~will~~ may be in N Y this fall, if so, I will come over to Boston & see you

I do hope my dear Son that you will persevere in your studies & improve your standing in your class — And if possible be able be able to take part in your commencement exercises

All are well & send your all love

Your devoted Father
A. T. Spencer

Duncannon.
Sept. 17th 1857.

My dearest Brother

I presume you have by this time come to the conclusion that I do not intend writing to you this term.

(There now, I have my lines and can write a little longer) Since my return from Louisville I have been attending our fair, & resting, there are several letters I should have written before this, one to Miss Fay, but the heat is expressive, it is much warmer than it was during the summer. Of course you would like to know what sort of a time we had

I enjoyed our Fair much more than the one in Louisville but not so much as usual. I was at a very pleasant party given by Ellen Dolley during the Fair, at which were a number of strangers, Miss Clay inquired particularly for you & sends her love. This was at a hop at the Hotel. There was a report that there would be a fancy Ball at the Hotel so we went a spectators, but there were only several small girls dressed in fancy. Give my love to all my friends, and write soon. All join me in love to you.

Your affect Sister Mary.

Mrs McAlester & L. B. & Mrs Neil were here yesterday evening about six

in Louisville a "tolerable" time One night we went to a large party at Mrs Preston's given to Sallie Warfield, it was to have been given to Ellen Tooley, but as she was not there the honor was conferred upon "The lovely Sal" according to orders Miss Higgins kept an eye on "lovely Sal" and in her letter to you, (which she threatens to write very soon) will give you a detailled account of every-thing — You know the gift of "Gab" is more fully developed in Miss H— than in myself. I have just discovered that my paper is upside down, which you will make all due allowances for. by the way, never under any circumstances do you let Miss

Miss Hay or any-one else get a glimpse of my letters, for you know I write just as fast & just what I think to you. I am delighted with my piano it is almost the exact tone of my old one. I suppose Father has told you that Monsieur Miel & his wife are going to set up a French school in Leg. He delivers a free French lecture at the Medical Hall this evening. Of course we attend, it is to be one half in French the other in English. On Tuesday evening Mother Miss H— & I attended a lecture by Tom Marshall on History at the Medical Hall, & found him very interesting. Father could not overcome his predjuices enough to go with us. Marshall is delivering a course of lectures upon Hist Tom

Lexington Sept 18th 1857

My Dear Son

Your of 10th inst I have rec'd - enclosing Earls bill - For which accept my thanks

I am rejoyced to hear - that you are fairly installed in College - Hollis 30 4th Story a little too high for comfort - that you are pleasantly situated with an agreeable chum whom you regard a high scholar & gentleman I hope he will improve further acquaintance prove so - and that you may be mutually beneficial to each other & that your friend Abbot and others agreeable to your own in the same Hall

I am pleased to hear that you have had an opportunity of renewing your acquaintance with Mrs H. P. Duncans - I regard her - as one of the most remarkable women I have ever met Her very superior intellect - Her charm of manner with great personal beauty - makes her one of very first & most attractive Ladies I have ever met - And I am not surprised that her husband adores her - Where did you meet her - How did you fall in with her - And when you have opportunity

you

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should cultivate his acquaintance - as one whose brilliant intelligence & fascinating manner is calculated to improve any young man Did you have any intercourse with Steven Duncan & his Minor while they were in Boston - I do not consider (I except Steve) as I scarcely know him - But I regard these young fellows from the South as fast - without brains or manners of bad very bad habits - and not very desirable as companions or intimates - they are generally presumeing & insolent in their bearing & should in general be kept at a distance.

I shall hunt up some good whiskey for Wesson - the man of whom I expected to get Shotown of Harrison County had his distillery & warehouse burned lately & lost heavily - I had 2 Barrels in it - made specially for me - Tell I shall get something good for him

I shall be unable to attend the Springfield fair - I shall make an arrangement with Porter of the "Spirit of the Times" N.Y. - to select a horse for - As I cannot get on well without a very superior Stallion - I shall give much more attention to the breeding & training of my horse stock in future - I have a herd of Mares - unsurpassed in Ky & shall raise some superior horses - I shall have you a fine one ready by the time you graduate

The fair here - was about as usual heat & dust in abundance - with the usual routine of hops & parties

Nothing very remarkable occurred except an attempt at a shooting match at the fair - between young Green & Bearfield both presented Pistols - but the prompt interference of some gentlemen at hand prevented them from shooting - they should both be well punished

All are well & join in much love to you

Your Devoted Father
H. T. Duncan

Tulum Febt. 22. '52

My dear Sir

Yours of yesterday came duly to hand, & we were sorry to be disappointed in our prospect of a visit from you, as independently of the pleasure of seeing you, I hoped to have pumping of your family & friends in Kentucky, of whom I know nothing since I left them.

You must put your visit only for a short time, & come to see us whenever & as often as you can make it agreeable to yourself.

Very truly Yours

Ruth Gilshee.

P. S. I forgot to say that Mr Stark called to see me on Monday afternoon He told me to give you his love when I wrote!!

Duncanson
Sept. 25th/67.

My dearest Brother

I have not written to you for several days and as no one is writing I shall. Mother and I expected to have gone to the Bourbon Fair to day but as yesterday was the "Horse Day" we concluded not to go down. I have written to Miss Fay and am going to write to your "Dulcinea" soon. I do wish you would open your mind to me upon a certain subject, & I shall try and

help you all in my power. & I think I can help you in your last letter to Father you wished to know where we all quartered ourselves in Louisville and how your friend Thomas Clay behaved. Miss H— said she would write to you, and give all the particulars, therefore I deferred doing it, knowing that she could give a more graphic account of what transpired than I could. She still says she will write. Miss H— Sallie Warfield and myself staid at Mr Fords, Father at Dr Flint's. we did not see Tom C— but we had a miserable time. Miss H— will give you a detailed account of all that transpired during our visit.

accept my thanks for my writing paper. I like it very much. but there are no envellopes — perhaps they were lost ~~when~~ if you sent them, for when the package came it was torn open and I think some of the paper was missing. did you send any? you must write me a long letter, and tell me all. and you will not regret it, no one shall see the letter. Now write very soon All join me in much love to you. Adieu with many good wishes for your health happiness & success in life — your affect sister

Mary.

Sept. 29, 1857

She was surrounded, and, also of course chimed in with every sally made upon them during the evening. I feeling somewhat in the position of an Editor, bound to observe and report, stayed in the vicinity of the fair one until dancing commenced - and was not a little surprised to find that there was at least one tongue in this happy land which outtied my own. Gone fair Cousin Mrs Forde seems to have let her heart upon your taking off the

A thousand thanks my dear Mr. Duncan for the book you so kindly sent me and for which I ought to have thanked you ere this. I shall prize the little volume very highly, first as your gift, secondly as a literary curiosity, and last tho' not least as the production

of my beloved Eugene. who in endeavouring to prove the existence of the "Sea Serpent" has given to the world incontestable proof of a still greater phenomena. namely that a man can live without brains.

I proposed to give you some account of our visit to Louisville, but I regret to say that procrastination which is proverbially the thief of time, has proved in my case the thief of memory also. And my reminiscences may now be given in a single line - it was the dullest week I ever spent at this side of the Alleghanies.

Miss Duncan has given you an account of Mr. Rectors party given for your "Lovely Sal" - you will be gratified to learn that altho' not the belle of the evening yet she was a belle - and rang out peals of what she considered wit, to the beaux by whom

As I have written to Mrs Felton about a teacher for Mr Felton you will oblige me exceedingly by mentioning to him that she is very anxious to hear from him. She leaves for Louisiana early next month.

Sept. 29, 1857

prize. and in this she shews a true appreciation of your worth, for she is a most ardent admirer of one friend, and believes her I have no doubt a wife for a prince. If such articles could be found resting under the shade of the "Star Spangled Banner" hand this leads me on the other hand (as the Chevy Lay) to ask how you like the message sent you by the Divinity, whom mortals distinguish by that charming "Nom de guerre"?

Miss Duncan has told you of her having had a visit from one of her Cambridge friends. is there not some chance of her being the "Mare" of the family?

While in Louisville I thought she aspired to the "Popedom" or at least his Holiness, tho' in his Minority, seemed to hope that she would give him the right hand of fellowship.

You are no doubt by this time pretty well tired of this dull epistle and begin to think if not to say, "Faith she would come to an end of this stuff" well my dear friend it has exercised your patience if it has done no other good, and now in conclusion accept my kindest regards, and best wishes, and permit me to remain

Your friend,

M D Higgins.

Lexington Sept. 29th 1857

Turn over

Lexington Sept 29th 1857

My Dear Son

I rec'd a few days ago your last pleasant and agreeable letter which was my Dear Boy as it always is most welcome & acceptable, to learn that you were getting on with your studies with more ease was particularly gratifying, I trust that you will labor to improve & ameliorate your standing in your class and acquit yourself well in all things morally socially & intellectually

You mention that you wish me to send you $100 in Oct — I do so at once, which I hope will come safely to hand — You will perceive that it is in a check upon N York — Bank of America where they will continue Specie payments I think it probable (If they have not already suspended specie payments in Mass) that they will do so in a few days — In which event the difference in exchange between N Y and Boston will be from 5 to 10 per cent — The latter 10 per cent, is the present difference between N Y & Phila — Since the suspension by the Banks of the latter City — You had better not use

the

until you absolutely need it — For if they suspend in Boston, which is inevitable — you will be able in their currency to get for it a handsome premium if not 10 per cent — The panic & alarm is spreading here — many failures will take place — property will fall and we shall have great confusion and embarrassment — until the crop is sold and realized — which will keep the agricultural community comparatively easy

I must urge upon you my Dear Son great economy in your expenditures — which I have enjoyed upon my family — Bank failures and the repudiation of County Bonds — may happen and thus curtail a cash income — though I hope for the best — I desire to put myself in a situation to take advantages of circumstances

I shall write you in a day or two again I write this to make you the remittance and as the mail is about to close — I must stop

All send you much Love

Yr Devoted Father
H. T. Duncan

N York Ky & Lou^a are probably the only states that will not suspend

intellectually this difference
In her parent letter to your
Mother & my self — she further
said that "you had acted most
honorably," why then any dif=
faculty, If there was truth &
sincerity in this letter

I have said to you that I was
surprised at the receipt of
her letter some weeks ago
It is really an appeal to me
(If It means any thing) to relent
that I have it in my power to
make her happy — this is the
Idea — This is strange under
the circumstances & the posi=
tions she placed herself in
in her first letter — This latter
letter & your post script point=
ing to the possibility of a
personal difficulty — Has in
prepared me with the idea

Lex Oct 2nd 1857

My Dear Son

Your affectionate letter of the
27th Sept came to hand to day — Its con=
tents particularly noted, especially
the postscript — which excites in my
mind no little solicitude & anxiety — I am
utterly at fault to comprehend, the
grounds of your suggestion of the poss=
=ibility of collision in fight — If
I am correctly informed on the
subject of the facts — they are simply these, you
make a hasty engagement, with a
young Lady — the step is disapproved
by your parents — You go on as I
advised you in an open frank &
manly way & lay the difficulty
before her (altho a trial to her
no doubt) She promptly releases
you from the engagement — and

wrote
to your Mother & myself as
did you — that the affair was
off — (By the by I hope you have
that joint letter of ~~your~~ theirs to
your Mother & ~~yourself~~ — as it
should not have been given up
to her, send me a copy of that
letter and keep the original
carefully — Your Mother sent
it on to you to see it) — So far all
plain and simple — the parties
release each other, & both ap=
prise us of it — Tohat has oc=
curred since to complicate the
affair — Were you my son in=
=discreet enough upon your visit
to N York this past summer
to recommit yourself to her, I
supposed the principal object of
the visit, to have been — to sur=
render letters & tokens to lamoureux
to each other — was there any
positive implied or conditional
renewal of the engagement — If
so, tell me, and what were those
conditions — inform me the true state
of fact — I confess my surprise
at the character of the letter
I rec'd from her some weeks
ago — which I answered frankly
and kindly — placing my fixed op=
position, upon grounds — which did
not reflect upon her — But solely
upon — the rational grounds of
your youth & inexperience — that
it would greatly interfere with your
educational pursuits — & really
render you unfit for their suc=
=cessful pursuit — I said further
that in an affair of this kind
there should be a suitable dif=
=ference in age — that the gentleman
should be from 5 to 10 three seniors
that there was physically and

well for the Ds — He has got in already sowed 110 A for his next crop which ought to produce him 4000 B at least at this rate the Illinois farm will come out & pay a revenue

I shall go out in the course of a month and spend some 2 weeks — take my new gun and have a real grouse and Deer Hunt

Before I bid you a good night my Dear Son — I must enjoin it upon you to write me freely & fully about that affair — which has made this impression upon your mind of the probability of a difficulty — you have done nothing I trust to change the impression of your conducts being entirely honorable in her estimation as she wrote to us

all send you much love yr Mother Father

Oct. 2, '57

that you may have possibly compromised yourself further than I am aware — If so my Son inform me — I desire accurate information & to know all the facts — that I may both act myself & advise you the better — If their is to occur any difficulty — give me the earliest possible information and I will come on — And If their is to be any fighting — I prefer to take a hand my self — But in any difficulty you must act as becomes a man of honor firmness & courage do not suffer yourself to be bulled into matrimony — Her letter to me shows — that she indulged hope —

I wrote you a few days ago — this week and enclosed a draft or check upon the Bank of America for $100 which I hope come safely to hand

Since my letter of this week the banking concern of Taylor Shelby & Co of Lexington — have failed — there is much panic prevailing — and the end is not yet — who goes next I cannot tell — The Banks of Ky will continue specie payments, of course this will tighten up things very much, as cannot safely do much new business at least — must not spare much of their own paper — until the crisis has passed

I have spent several days this week at Bedford — taking much interest in the breaking and training of my colts — I have picked out 3 pair of matches or some superb single ones — I never have had so superb a lot of Colts such ing yearling & 2 years old when 59 shall come around we shall have something nice for you, If they do not kill you off, In the effort to yoke you whether or no

I have failed to get my wheat ready for sale — in time to get for it 110$ it has fallen to 75c, this owing to my disappointment in getting a thresher in time to get it out

Dr Jenkins has been more lucky — he got his out early & sold for 1$ pr Bushel, selling some 1200 Bush — this is freely

Oct. 2, '57

PS – I see from your letter to your sister – that you are sending messages to young Ladies here, to one your love & say she will hear from you ~~again~~ soon – to the other your respects – Now this is all wrong you may excite hopes – unintentionally – Do not get in ~~so~~ more scrapes unless you are prepared to go through – "Look before you leap" Never play the gay deceiver – Act in all things as becomes a pure true and honorable man – Never deceive or excite false hopes – Act in all things as becomes one of your Character

Your devoted Father
H L D

in much love and a kiss to you.
Good bye - your ever devoted sister
Mary.

P. S. Will you please send me a
new catalogue.

Duncannon.
Oct 5th/57.

My dearest Brother

Your last most welcome letter was received on Thursday. You appear to enjoy good spirits &c, must be having a "good time" as school girls say. You say Story Greenough is in Cambridge now; does he look anything like Charles Chauncey - Mrs S— said he did, if so he must be very handsome. By the way, how is "Stack" getting along with Lillie? does she still encourage him? You did not say whether she would attend Prof. Agassiz this year. I shall expect to hear from Miss Hay soon - as she must have received my letter by this time, and then she will give me all the family

news. When you see Miss Sallie Colburn, give her my love, & say to her, that my sewing machine, works nicely. Who is boarding at Mrs Bells, this term — remember me to them whenever you have an opportunity. Have you been to see "Lady Clara" yet? do call soon. she would prize a visit from "Brother Henry" give her my very best love. You ~~[illegible]~~ mentioned having received a letter from Garland lately. Do write to the poor fellow — he calls to see Sallie — I do not say my self, at Mrs Fords — and spoke of his having written to you some time past and not having heard from you, I told him you were very busy, but that I was sure he would hear from you very soon — as you had been threatening to write to him for some time, Now do write to the poor boy — for I told him you would.

There is nothing new to tell you every-thing goes on at the same pace — Lexington is considered very well, by the young ladies, I have not yet had the opportunity of delivering your messages to Miss Warfield — and Miss Clay — but shall do so, at the earliest convenience. I saw Miss Lafon, last week at the Milliners, she appeared very glad to see me, and said she would call this week. I intend, my very first chance to speak, to her of what she said about your addressing her crossing the bridge — I shall go into Lexington as soon as I finish this — and as I should like to have it in the Office in time to have it go this afternoon — I shall say Good Bye. Miss Higgins sends her kind regards — remember me to all my friends. Will you me

October 10th 1857

My dear brother

This is the first letter I have written you since you left us Mr Castleman sister Mary Ellen and johnny Castleman went riding this morning Mrs Morgan Mr Webb Miss Higgins and sister Mary are going to ride this evening.. Mother Miss Higgins sister Mary Mr Frank Mathews Ellen Mathews Morton Mathews sister Ellen and myself went to Mr Morgan's sale last thursday but the times are so hard that no one would buy the farm. Mr Morgan was very much disappointed but Mrs Morgan was very

you that while she was in Louisville ~~that~~ she played with Mr Ford nearly ~~as~~ every night and lost him so badly that he would not believe she was a gambler of only three weeks standing.

all send love to you.

your affectionate sister Lily

well pleased for she did not want to go to Missouri. and we met Mr Castleman there and when we came home they all went down to Mrs Johns I glis they started from home about four o clock and did not come back untill nine o clock at night Father says that it was ~~about~~ about twenty one miles dont you think that was a long ride Ellen Mathews came home trotted nearly to pieces She could not turn her head round. I told you in the first part of my letter that sister Mary and Ellen went to Mrs Castlemans ~~dont~~ Mrs Mary Webb Miss Mary Castleman that was has just arrived and sister Mary was very anxious to see her so she went down this morning Mrs Castleman Mrs Breckinridge Mrs Webb and her husband were here yesterday afternoon and sister Mary told her that she would come down this morning before breakfast and Mr Castleman stayd all night so as to go with them this morning Johnny came up this morning.

I am very sorry there are so many mistakes in this letter but I have been out of the practice of letter writing for so long that I do not write as well as as I did before vacation I have learned to play Euchre very well now Miss Higgins and I are generally partners as we are both your pupils we think we had better keep together Miss Higgins desires me to tell

57
Oct

Lexington Oct 14th 1857

My Dear Son

Your two letters of the 5 & 7 came to hand together — They were very satisfactory & have relieved my apprehensions very much.

I am pleased to see that your vote was a flattering one — in the election of your class the other — for members of the new Society. It is evidence of popularity in your class — that is gratifying — and furnishes evidence that you are on rising ground. I hope my Dear Son that you will sustain fully your position & that it will stimulate you to increased exertions to press forward in the race for Collegiate honours. You may yet be the choice of the class for the honor of the valedictory — this would be — to me one of the happiest of events & would be an earnest of your future career & popularity.

The times here are very serene

Gracel

distrust and want of confidence - since my last McClelland the pork dealer here, has failed and made an assignment others will follow - No market or sale for any thing - we are afraid to credit my wheat or Hog crop - I fear I shall not be able to sell - my pork I must put up myself - my wheat I have housed - and shall wait until I can sell for cash - We are all drawing in & spending comparatively nothing, If you sell on credit you cannot collect If you have money hold on to it & and lay it out for nothing - I have some cash on hand - which I will not in=vest - until I can see my way clearer We buy nothing we can do without this rule - which is becoming univer=sal - is stopping the trade of the mer=chants - many of whom must close up I will simply say you - to bear these things in mind - spend nothing need lessly - as that you can do without It now - from present appearances will be very difficult to get eastern funds for you - The interest on my Bourbon Bonds I fear will not be paid in N Y as promised - the Banks - have no eastern funds - my only chance for Eastern Money - are these Bonds & the sale of my beef & wheat in N Y on my own account - But enough of this gloomy picture

Dr Marshall is now with us on a visit - in fine health all the family are well & join in much love to you

I remain
Your Devoted Father
A T Duncan

Duncannon.
Oct. 15th 1857.

My dear Brother

Your last was received some days since, but as Father has been writing I deferred until to day, thinking it more desirable to have a letter every day or two - than all at once. I was quite surprised to see from Father's last letter from you, that he had mentioned your sending your love to a young lady - he only laughed when he read it and I did not think he cared.
By the by who do you think is to be married, I might just as well tell you - for you never would guess. Mary R. Timberlake

to a Mr Thomas, this is to take place the first of next month and then they start for the north to make a Bridal tour.
I have been trying to write a letter to Mrs Ford, but have not yet succeeded in getting it long enough and shall finish it tomorrow.
by the way, I never told you, that I was not so fond of Mr H. as I used to be, I do not think I shall "darken her doors" soon again, when I see you I shall tell you all about it. Last night Peter Brine, hit Charlie Tall, in the head with the rooling pin and he has been delirious ever since, we have had a very serious time with the servants lady. Lizzie & Mannie were thrown from a horse & Nan's arm was broken. Liz was brought in senseless, and on Sunday after our return from church - Amie had fits - and continued to until yesterday afternoon, but she is now better.
Miss Higgins has been very anxious to hear from Mr Helton, concerning his neices, Mrs T. leaves to day and she has had no letter or word from Mr Helton, you had better ask him if he receives Mr H's letter, we are going in to see if Mrs T. has left she intended to have gone to day. Tell John me kin love to you. Good afternoon Your loving sister

Mary.

Duncannon
~~Sept~~
Oct. 17th 1867.

My dear Brother

Your last was received, on yesterday. Are you not ~~ashamed~~ to say you have a very nice time now that you have no sister to bother you fie! fie! I should like to know what kind of looking girl Miss Thomas is - and how she came to know Miss Fay, Miss Greenough still has her "reception evenings" I see. James is in the Library

with me, and he says you have not answered his last letter – do write to him.

I have just received a note from Mag Morgan, they are coming over to Fish this afternoon to fish,

Day before yesterday, Mr Kerfoot, Mary McCage's husband died in the cars on his way to Lexington – he was coming for his wife. he died ~~just~~ before the Chi— cars reached Louis- and ~~no~~ one knew him his body was taken to the Salt House and was recognized by Mr Kein.

Miss Higgins and the children are howling at such a rate – that one can not hear themselves talk & she is quite vexed with me for laughing – but it is almost impossible to help it. I intend calling to see Miss Clay soon – it is reported she is to marry a Widower, who was here at the Fair, he was very attentive to her. I should think it very bad taste in her to take him in preference to Thomas Jacob – Mrs Atkinson & her husband have returned from Europe, she is looking better than I ever saw her. Mother says I must give you her love – she says she does not write to you, she has so much compassion for you she says it would keep you busy answering the letters she would write to you.

Lexington Oct 19th 1857

My Dear Son

Without any of your welcome letters unanswered - I take my pen to write you a hasty line - saying that we are all in usual health and a plenty to eat, in these times of unprecedented suffering among the poor, out of employment and suffering for the necessaries of life, to them it is to be a hard winter - no money to be had, no debts paid - the Banks here have determined to continue Specie payments - are endeavoring to pay their liabilities daily - this I think a misfortune for the Country - as the suspension is almost universal - I see nothing to accomplish - by persevering in this policy - they would be sustained by public sentiment in a suspension - which would enable them to loan money to carry forward the Crop & Stock of the Country - the failure to do so - locks up our heavy Crop I shall ship my wheat to N.O. & if not sold there for a satisfactory price, ship it to Liverpool my Hogs - as no one has money to buy - I shall slaughter & Bacon myself over 200 head - dividends will be small & I fear the interest on County bonds will not be paid - which shortens my income

one

2nd
L.E.

must cut close and live very prudently — If we can compass enough to meet current expenses this coming year — it is as much as we may hope for — I have never seen things look so gloomy — Massachusetts has suspended — It could not have been otherwise with her overwhelming circulation

I hope you acted upon my suggestion & & kept up your 100$ check until the Bostons suspension — which would make it worth from 5 to 10 per cent — an event I looked for certainly — Let me know what exchange is worth on N Y — especially Bank of America which will continue to Pay specie, I will arrange for all your remittances to be on that Bank as heretofore

You speak of a probable notice in the Harvard paper of the Rosa poems — If you do any thing of the sort — ~~but~~ you make them your everlasting friends but it be flattering but dignified — not gross as both Lockliff & Peculiar have noticed it send me a copy

Peter Bruce in a fit of jealousy attacked Charley Fall a few days ago — with a rolling pin (the article they make his = = cut of) slipped up behind him & struck two blows on the head & 2 on the arm — before he was arrested — The Overseer hand cuffed him and like a simpleton — locked him up in the Work House — He, of course made his escape as he is a smart cunning fellow — he may make his escape — fearing that Fall may die — If he hears that Fall is recovering he will return — as he is much attached to his family So you see we have all sorts of trouble

All send you much love

Your Devoted Father

A. J. Duncan

Lexington Oct 21st 1857

My Dear Son

I duly received a few days ago your welcome letter - regret to hear of Mr Peabody probable loss by the Lawrences - hope it will embarrass him though I see that bills drawn upon him by one of Philadelphia Banks has returned protested - This looks rather squally - as I presume they would not have drawn - without some arrangement with him for that purpose - Things look here comparatively comfortable - though money is scarce and hard to get - The Banks are still paying specie & I think will continue to do so - little or none drawing though I think they should have suspended - as in that event - they could have discounted liberaly enough so, to have carried forward the crops and stock of the country - which would have made things comfortable & our people very easy

We have nothing new here all quiet and dull - Of late we have had a good deal of Eucher playing - Almost every night a little card playing - Lilly is the best player among them - Miss Higgins is very fond of it - Your Mother thinks it shocking - but seems to yield better than you would suppose

I hope you are making the most of

of your time, nothing will give you so much of influence as intellectual culture – nothing so charming as graceful cultivation – a man of sense & scholarly accomplishments – is rare in this country – the bombast & "high falutin," as it is called – is American – the result of little learning & defective education – I send you a copy of the Louisville Journal – containing 2 speeches from English Orators – that I admire exceedingly – Bulwer & Disraeli – In such good taste & so graceful – upon the occasion of agricultural Banquets – As you have access to the London times – you can find them in full read them

I started out on Friday to the Ky river for my Coal – Spent the night with Dr Bullock – was treated with great kindness & hospitality – I regret your Mothers prejudices against him growing out of the Brown trial I hope it will all pass off – They are among the cleverest people in this country – Old Mrs Breckenridge, Jno, C, mother – is a grand old Lady – has few equals – She was the daughter of President Smith of Princeton –

I do not know how soon I shall start for Illinois sometime in November – All send you much love

Yr Devoted Father

A. T. Duncan

Duncannon
Nov 4th 1857

My very dear son

My long silence must not be construed into any thing like neglect of you no, no, very far from it, I can never cease to think of you & regard you in the most affectionate manner the only cause that I have not written often to you is, there being so many in the family writing there is nothing of consequence to talk about, then it is too much of a tax on your time not leaving you after your studies sufficient for recreation, which is very important for health, so that my writing would be entirely superfluous, & it is purely in consideration for yourself, & you must not give it any other meaning which she wrote you some time since, Your sisters eyes are just the same & nothing doing for them, it is too bad! she recd a long letter last week from Mrs Greenough which was very pleasing to her, owing to her going to Louisville she did not reply. My dear son it would have been exceedingly gratifying to me had you taken a part in the exercises of your class, it is not too late yet I hope, do be persuaded to aim at distinction, make the effort if not successful, but I'm persuaded that is all that is necessary, try. I do! Ellen, Lily, send a sister's love to brother, E says she has not time to write to you Miss Higgins keeps her so busy — Lily sais thank you for your letter & perhaps she will write to you on saturday. Good bye, God bless you

Your affectionate Mother

Mind regards to Mr & Mrs Day

Events are rather barren at present, at least as regards home affairs we are all going on pretty much as usual, we are enjoying some very nice cider, the apples are very fine & abundant, just as I am sitting at my window the turkeys have mustered themselves before it, which reminds me to say to you that on your visit home there will be no lack of this delectable bird, Your return home is spoken of as an event of great pleasure. Your father & sister left yesterday at 6 o'clock A. M. for Louisville to be present at the marriage of Mary R. Timberlake, I hope they will have a pleasant time the weather is very bright & beautiful & I hope that we shall have a long indian summer, the cold winter is dreadful, by the by you left your comfort, & your socks are ready for you let me know if I shall send them to you or let them remain until you come out. Your friend Mr Berkly will leave Lexington this month for St Louis, so this Parish will be vacant, & for some time I think before they get another as good as he, the church in Lex. does not seem to appreciate him, Miss Higgins is very sorry indeed although he is not so high church as she is, next sabbath is his last sermon, & all are going to hear him of this house hold save myself, not that I should ~~not~~ like to hear him but would not leave my own church to go, Miss H. has been anxiously looking for a letter from you in reply to a long one

Duncannon.
Nov. 8th 1857.

My dear Brother

I received your letter of the 30th, to day. I shall now proceed to give you some account of my visit to Louisville, for the occasion of Mary's wedding. Father and I left here on Tuesday morning, accompanied by Mrs Swinny, who went down, to make her brother John Raine, who is quite sick, we put up at the Galt House, and now you will understand who it was we had as you supposed a falling out with, but you must remain contented without an explanation until I see you.

Mary was married at nine, the ceremony was performed by Mr Marie

she says she will never write to you again, what has become of her friend Charles, you have not marked him as one of your friends this term, have you written to Garland Webb? if not, do — Sallie Warfield is going to Cin — at Christmas to visit the Andersons — Mr & Mrs Longworth are to have a "Gold wedding" she says Nick is to be there and send, come for her, that is if she has no one to escort her. They say indeed — There is a Mr Anderson — Mr Cin — who is very sumptuous love with the "Lovely Sal" some say they are engaged, you must please him about it. Remember me to Frank Thayer, I am glad he has not forgotten me. Have you ever been to see Clara R — "Lady Clara", Do go — and tell her to write to me, I received a letter from Mrs G — last week, love to all inquiring friends, all join me in love to you. Sallie sends hers —

the couple went through with it very well, Mrs Thomas (for this is now her name, and I think it no more than fair to call her by it,) was by no means a pretty bride, but she looked, as all Brides do, as well as she ever did, her husband is about an inch taller than herself - has light hair & eyes - not handsome, but pleasant looking - they intend, starting on a "Bridal Tour" to day - I intended, to ask them to visit Boston, but had not an opportunity of doing so - as I remained only a short time, until yesterday afternoon, wednesday. They will go immediately to house-keeping. You must not worry yourself about answering my letters, write when it is convenient, I shall not be exacting - and expect you to reply to every one. I am rather of your opinion concerning Miss Clay - by the by - I was at a small party at her house two weeks since, which was very pleasant, You inquire when the Jacobs return, I heard a few days since that they would remain in Europe two years, had taken a house - I think this will finish Lucy, and I cannot say it will be of any benefit to Charlie. From your own account of yourself as well, as what I hear, You must be very gay, and have a great deal of leisure time. Did you know Fannie Blake was engaged to a Mr Holyoke, who graduated last year. Have you seen the accomplished "fast" young lady - ? I presume she is quite at home with the students, as well as others. Tomorrow evening Miss H - Jim & myself are invited to a party at Mr Cafor's, I think we shall go, on last Friday evening Lillie Brand had a very pleasant little party of about 22 or 23 persons, I spent the night with her. Why do you not write to Miss H - ?

"Maplewood" Pittsfield

My dear cousin

Duncannon. Nov 7th 1857

My dear brother

I received your letter last week and was very glad to hear from you. you need not trouble yourself about answer al my letters for they are not worth answering. sister Ellen sends her love to you and says she is so busy that she has not time to write. Mrs Higgins says

Let me entreat you to regard the
Bible as a
lettter from
your mother. Her prayers
are offered for you daily
and hourly. Her heart
yearns over her wandering
boy. Do not forget
your dear mother.
Yesterday in the
church I thought of you,
dear father see, your
letter yesterday in
which you make
the enquiry. There is
not a great deal of inter-
est to write about.
It is purely out of con-
sideration for you that
I have ventured to tax
your time. This is satur-
day evening, which
brings the Sabbath near

she will never write to you again because you have not answered her letter Miss Higgins sister mary and cousin James went to a party at Mr Sayres they said they never enjoyed them selvs more in their life. sister mary is going to the choir meeting this eveing at Mr Sayres. the ~~[illegible]~~ weather is delightful we set with the windows and doors open and with out fire if it wasn't for the trees you would think it was summer. Dr. Marshall arrived here this morning I suppose he will spend a few days with us. tomorrow Mr Berkley will preach his farewell sermon we are all going to hear him

I forgot to tell you that Miss Higgins had for beau Mr Tom ~~[illegible]~~ Dolan Mr Cristie and Mr Laywell. she laughs very much. sister mary went to town this morning she says that Miss Lizzie Norton is to be married. you must excuse all the mestake as I am in a ~~very~~ great hurry I expect you will not be able to read my scribbles your affectionate sister Lily

Lexington Nov 8th 1857

My dear Son

I rec'd a few days since your affectionate letter - for which I thank you. You speak of the effects of the hard times reaching Cambridge - that the boys are out of funds & on the borrow - that you have loaned some not 1/10 of the applications - I will give you one suggestion - that in this business you will lose your money & never collect 1/10 - you cannot be too cautious - If your society wants funds - even I & you I would not make the loan as you have not the funds to spare - so unless you are committed to let them have the 20$ you speak of, I would not make the loan - But if you are committed stand up to it - As I am a great lover of good faith in all things - But my son I must impress upon you the necessity of economy & prudence - for I assure you - that I have never seen more difficulty in collecting funds - though I owe comparatively little having paid off this year the bulk of my Real Estate debt - my income will be much reduced from a reduction in the prices

Monday morning - James & I have just returned from the Pond caught 46 lake lights - which makes 2 large mess - wish you could break fast with us this morning -

This is county court day - shall spend the day in town - & shall see & hear much of hard times - We shall continue to pay specie & have no suspension by our Banks - Things I hope will soon get better - I shall ship my wheat to N Y for sale & have my pork packed on my own account for sale - Had I been able to cash these two articles - I should have "been towns" as the saying is

All send you much love

Your devoted Father

H L Dunccan

49

of all articles – small & reduced bank dividends & some chance of repudiation of County Bonds – My private debts due to me I shall manfully have to renew & indulge, these facts – I mention to you – to impress you with the absolute necessity of my reducing all my expenditures & economising in all things. this is necessary – I give you the facts and feel that that is all that is necessary to secure your concurrence in carrying out my views – I shall be able to furnish you enough for your purposes – with proper economy – to live like a gentleman – But not extravagantly

Dr Marshall is here on his return from Mason – getting more helpless – we have been able to give him a plenty of fish – James & I caught 50 before Breakfast yesterday morning the fishing has been fine this fall and gives us great sport – I have not got off to Illinois and may postpone it until Spring as I find my hands full, of improvements – the gates are up – some fencing to do – with many repairs & fixing up here & at Bedford – accommodation for my young horses – that I am training & breaking – I shall I think have some superb horses, horses – by the time you return home I am taking great interest in them

If I go to Illinois – I can stay but a few days – though I think it doubtful whether I can go – I should not, if I had confidence in the Dr's management – as I wish to have some improvements this fall

Miss Higgins complains of your not answering her letter – you should make the amend honorable – and write her a long letter – Mamy received from Miss Greenough a letter on yesterday – very amusing and entertaining – It was immaginative – written as a casual visitor or traveler to Cambridge written to a friend giving an account of of persons & things as she saw them, very well done indeed – By the by when you meet this interesting family – remember me most kindly to them all Miss Fay Miss Greenough and her estimable mother

In some recent letter to you I slipt a scrap of paper – upon which I wrote that you must not fail to take lessons in Boxing & Small sword – for the benefit of the exercise, and to acquire a manly accomplishment which might be useful to you some day – develop & strengthen the muscles of the Chest & arms & healthy as an exercise – I wish you to take the lessons certainly – & become expert as a Boxer and ~~swordsman~~

return in the course of a week. He intends spending most of the winter with Mrs Logan. I have now given you all the news - and think you will tire of this letter, though short out of compassion therefore I will say Good Bye. All join me in love to you, love to all my friends. Your loving sister

Mary -

P.S. Remember me to your "Chum"

Duncannon
Nov. 16th 1857.

My dear Brother

I have not written to you as often as usual. It is two weeks since you have had a line from me, and I will now proceed to give you some account of what has occurred of interest during that time. I think I wrote you all about the wedding, if not let me know and I will tell you all about it which can be done in very few words. Last week Miss Higgins and I went to a party at Middle Dams - having gone for a team. The party was given to a Miss Conklin a niece of aunt Abbeys - we spent the evening

very pleasantly. Lil has given you a list of Miss Higgins Beaus. Why do you not write to Miss H.. she is quite out about your not writing. you have not said that you have answered S. Webb's letter yet. if you have not write to him instead of answering my letter, I will not look for an answer to this letter or my next, and shall expect you to write to Miss H. & S. W. instead. On last Wednesday evening, I attended a small party at Ellen Colley's, which was very pleasant. I spent the night with Ellen. Lillie B. was there also the "Lovely Sal". Miss C. was not. I intend to have a "Sociable" soon. They are taking the place of those "Clubs" which were held here several winters ago. Mother says you must give a party when you come home, I advise you to bring out some "Beaus", if you do. for they are a very scarce article in these parts. By the way which I think of it, be sure to present my kind regards to Frank Thayer, when you see him.

You will regret to hear that your friend Mr Berkley leaves on next Wednesday for St Louis. his family will remain here during the winter. I heard his farewell sermon on yesterday. his remarks at the close were very appropriate & touching. a large congregation was assembled to hear it. I suppose you remember Lizzie Norton, S. W. N's daughter. she is to be married tomorrow morning. to a Mr Sharp of Mayville. Dr Marshall was here week before last and spent several days. he said he would

Lexington Nov 19th 1857

My Dear Son

Your welcome letter of the 13 inst is at hand - I am relieved by the intelligence you give, of your restoration to health, your last ~~letter~~ made us feel anxious about you & we feared that you might be worse than you were willing to admit

You seem pleased with your class society arrangement, I hope it will prove beneficial - and that attend strictly to all the duties it imposes - above all things cultivate the art of public speaking & correct writing - as among the highest ac= =complishments of the Scholar & gentleman & those that are to give you more decided influence and position - than all others

In my last letter to you I ex= =pd

upon you to take lessons in Boxing
& small sword exercise. they will
prove beneficial to your health from
the active exercise they give and
learn an art, that may be useful
upon some occasion - brace and
strengthen your muscles & improve
both your action & grace - Do not
neglect it

You mention that Miss Fay de
= sires - that I take her copy of Prof
Agassiz work on Natural History
use your own pleasure upon the
subject, though I have not the
funds now - How many vol are
out & how much will it cost
let me know & I will write to you
again - I shall be unable to send
you a remittance before the 1st
Jan - unless I am more fortunate
than I now expect - I attempted
to collect a day or two since
some Negro hire due me;

Mary

Property & Stock have fallen greatly
I purchased a lot of 3 & 4 year old
cattle last week at 40$ pr head cost
the cheapest & finest I ever pur-
chased by 33 pr cent at least
they are cattle that will weigh
next June when they will be
ready to go to market from 1 to
1700 lb I bought 35 head at 40$ &
5 at 34$ this makes up the number
I will feed – In march I expect to
add from 1 to 200 head more as I
wish to have ready & sell from
4 to 500 from harbor in June &
July – I have my stock all laid
in & paid for – I shall feed with
corn some 300 head this winter
If I have fair luck in the sale
of my wheat & pork with dividends
and hire, to go through without
taxing my credit – my wheat I
shall ship to N.Y. & my pork I will
have packed on my own account

without success – my debts there
that are due me, I fear I shall
have to run & fail to collect – I
have never seen such difficulty
in making collections – this is
the obstacle to remit you money
to advance to your land lady, though
you shall have enough to pay
your board before you leave
at vacation – How much will
you then need? let me know, it
is a great shame that the young
men of your mess – I hope it is
not your mess – who have failed
to pay their board for the last
term – you are not one of them
I hope – those all pay your land
lady – The times will not allow
of accommodation advances to any
one – I do not do it & hope you will
not – their is no claim upon you
for more than your own board
& be satisfied to meet this – When

will you be able to leave for home — what time in January

Your Sister & Miss Higgins are taking lessons in Singing — from Abonius — and they keep an awful uproar — to my occasional discomfort — at this moment Mary is in the Library practising and I writing to you — so that you must excuse all blunders — I have declined going to Illinois this fall We are in the midst of Winter a snow storm commenced on yesterday morning & still continues It is very cold — more so than I have ever known it, so early in the season

All are well & send you much love present my kind regards to Mrs Fay Mrs Greenough & Miss Lilly — to Mrs Bourdetch Warren & Silsbee & family

Your devoted Father
H J Duncan

P.S. — You ought to write to Mr & Mrs Sparks a long and careful letter I hope you will do so

Duncannon.
Nov. 21st 1867.

My dear Brother

I received your last letter yesterday accompanying one to Father. I am very sorry to hear of the return of your old companion - the Neuralgia, Don't you wish you had Sister there to go and comfort you? I should find some difficulty in going to your room in the College buildings - I am glad you have such a good "Chum" you must remember me to him. I feel very uneasy at the fate of my letter, which you inform me is lost, for mercy's sake do burn all you have, and all you will

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hereafter receive - perhaps your Chum or some of the Students may have found my letter - I do feel dreadfully about it -

You have not told me much about my successor Miss Thomas - Where does Joe Clarke live now?

Tell Mr. Dyer I wish him success in his undertaking or enterprise, though I tremble & fear for its success - Tell him we Young Ladies in Lexington have them about every week and they are very pleasant - I wish we had him here - and when I have one, I should be delighted to have him come give him an invitation to mine which will come off soon - See the ladies find the entertainment and music both -

I am sorry to hear of Hicks indisposition Tell him to take care of himself for Sallie's sake if not for his other friends -

Father says he, Mother, and I will go on to your "Fast" when you have one - and that you shall have a "Spread" - Do try and get one - it would delight us all so much. Father has at last let out Miss Higgins and my secret - namely, that I are taking Vocal Music - We are getting along famously - You would think it awfull, if you could hear us practice. I hope you will enjoy your "Thanksgiving" Give my best love to all the Silsbee's - You must take good care of yourself - for it is not pleasant to be suffering with Neuralgia - All join me in love to you - Your loving and devoted Sister.

Mary.

Duncannon Nov 25th 57

My dear brother

I was very sorry to hear that you were suffering so with your jaw but I hope that you are much better now and will continue so but I am glad you have such a good Chum and you must give him my love for taking such good care of you. O! I do wish you could spend Christmass with us we would all have such a nice time and we would be so happy together but you will be home soon. I am writing on the

nice little Portfolio you gave
me. it must be very cold in
Cambridge now the ground here has
been covered with snow but it is
all melted now and the pond is
frozen and is hard enough to
bare I have been playing on it.
tomorrow will be Thanksgiving day
it will be very cold.
sister Mary and Miss Huggins
have gone to town. sister Mary
is going to a little soiree at
Mr Hayes.
you must excuse all the mistakes
all send love to you
write soon and let us know
how your a love and a kiss
from ly your affectionate sister
Lily

rather — a scarce article, the older I get, the more I see of any race to disgust & impair confidence — few very few are to be trusted — But enough of this sad subject

Dr Green — you know — notified the trustees of the university that would resign his presidency of Transylvania & accept that of Danville — I believe he regrets the step & is endeavoring to retrace it — quite a movement is on foot among some of the Ladies to induce a reconsideration of all this which is likely to be successful

All are well & send you much I have been very successful in Cider making & have put up some for you specially — my regards to friends

Your Devoted Father
A J Duncan

Lexington Nov 29th 1857

My Dear Son

I rec'd your welcome letter day before yesterday, and your mother on yesterday — We regret very much to hear of your — prolonged indisposition & regret to hear of the remedy you have adopted that of walking many miles — that a sick gentleman — should walk some 18 miles — with the hope of having his health benefitted is all a mistake — a walk of a mile or two, would accomplish all that was necessary — Quite the long fatigues, they will injure you unless in vigorous health & then even do no particular good — Hereafter I hope you will ride in your excursions even to Boston — for it is cheap

enough - so upon this score it is economy to ride - without fatigue & do not indulge in any more long tramps

I shall make you a remittance very soon, as I suppose you are getting low in funds

We have had a hard spell of weather - Ice 3 inches on the pond It is now mild & prospect of Indian Summer - yesterday & to day is most delightful bright weather

Dr Jenkins is with us, upon a short visit of a few days looking remarkably well & cheerful

It is a sad account you give of the Lawrence swindle - I regret it very much - that one engaging so much the public confidence & respect - should in an evil hour, have been betrayed into the commission of so gross a crime - that he one fals and criminal movement - He should crush that, which had taken a life time to acquire - The times are dreadfully out of joint, crime & fraud & swindling & bad faith seems to have become the order of the day - every thing like virtue truth honor & justice seems to have been extinguished from the public mind - you never take up a paper, that you do not read of startling & appalling crimes forgeries & swindling - in high & low places keep your mind very clear pure & uncontaminated - calls notes more opprobrious by than ever, your love of truth honor justice - indeed all the virtues - which dignify and ellevate the human character - a pure & upright man, is, in these times of degeneracy

Duncannon.
Dec. 1st 1857.

My dear Brother

I received your interesting letter on yesterday. You speak of taking part in the "Follies" of the Cambridge folk. I should like to participate in them myself. I imagined myself at Miss Fay's last evening - At your "Sociable". I know you enjoyed it for all gatherings at Miss Fays are pleasant. I want you to send me a list of the names of the gentlemen and ladies - who are members of your "Sociable" I shall

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expect to be made an honorary member. and shall meet with you all in Spirit every Monday evening. I shall be much obliged to you for the music you intend bringing me, I am very glad you are attending Papanicolopo. I imagine you dancing the Polka German cotillion &c. I am rather surprised at your not mentioning Miss Mary B.'s name among the number who are members of your "Sociables".

I am much obliged to you for wishing me in your room for "half an hour", if I were once there you would find it rather a difficult task to drive me out at the expiration of "half an hour" I am happy to hear you are so comfortable. you ought to try to get Nick K.'s room next year. it is one of the nicest rooms I ever went into, in the buildings. I mean. I am glad to hear my friends still remember me you must always give my love to those who send theirs to me. I am just about to take a ride on horseback with Mr. Webb our neighbor, it is a most charming day, not like winter, but like a bright fall day. I must bid you good bye and prepare to ride. Pa joins me in much love to you. your devoted sister

Mary D—

P.S. Excuse all mistakes, I have written in such haste, that every thing

Salem Dec. 4. 1852

Dear Sir

Yours informing us of your proposed visit we were very glad to receive. We should be at home on Saturday & hope to see you

Yours

Henry T. Lemon jr.

Nath Silsbee

Lexington Dec 7th 1857

My Dear Son

Enclosed I send you a check for $200 - which will put you in funds to pay your boarding bills for the term & 100$ over - for other matters - I should have sent you a check for a larger amount, But at this time - I have many engagements due - or about falling due - at the close of the year - taxes about 800$ and many other matters - Indeed it may be necessary to defer your terms bill of 100$ until your return at ~~at~~ the next beginning - as has been usual - not however If I can spare the money, I have found the collection of debts worse than I have ever known - But write what is the least you can do with for the remainder of the term - and pay your expenses home

All are well & send you much love Dr Jenkins returns to Morrow for Illinois I shall have to make an advance for him, to pay for a lot of hogs he has purchased $1000 - so you see I have my hands full

Your devoted Father

A. L. Duncan

Nothing new or of interest

Duncannon.
Dec. 9th 1857.

My dearest Brother

Your letter to Father is just received, but he is not at home to reply - he left for Cin — yesterday afternoon with Dr. Jenkins who has been here some ten days. he said he was more reluctant to leave home than ever before Dr. Jenkins I mean, he seemed to enjoy Miss Higgins society very much, you can tease her about him when you write to her. he call him "Cakhaw" he say he will write to you very soon.

I am very glad you have made such an improvement

in Greek. and I hope you will not only continue to improve in that branch of study, but also in all the others. Miss Higgins intends writing to you very soon. she and I are getting along very well in our music.

You seem to have fine times skating, who matronizes the young ladies this winter? I hear Mrs Wilson has left Cambridge. We have had but one freeze that was fit for skating - I tried it for half an hour. there is not much prospect of having any more soon, for it appears our winter is to be a rainy one, it is not cold. the pond is fuller than I ever saw it - the water has covered the dam. - if a freeze would only come what delightful skating we should have.

Father and Mother say you must not take any more walks at night - especially alone, they say you must be sure and stop for it is very dangerous - Mother says she will write to you very soon.

All join me in much love to you. Your devoted and loving sister

Mary.

Remember me to all my friends.

permit no accounts to accumulate — Do not go in debt, rather do without — If you cannot pay at once — where you keep accounts — you are charged more by 25 pr cent — than the articles would cost for cash — I will say to no more on this subject as I have heretofore earnestly exhorted you to the practice of proper economy — you have no Idea of the difficulty of collecting debts & realizing cash. I have due me on 1st Jan over $4000 in Illinois for Lands sold & some 3000$ here — and if I realize as much as will meet my own engagements — I shall be fortunate — I am thus minute to impress you with the importance — of bearing in mind these facts — to aid you in a proper regulation of your

Dec. 12, 1857

to the president — that it should be made his duty to ~~proclaim~~ announce by proclamation the fact and without further proceedings on the part of Congress — the state should be admitted into the union on an equal footing with the original states — this course Congress can take & if she does, and the whole instrument is referred to a vote of the people — who will thereby settle the mixed question themselves — Gov Walker has behaved well — far better than I had expected — certainly better than his past history as a public man warranted us to hope for it will give Walker far more position than he has ever had though a man of fine abilities he has been regarded as rather lax in his principals

Nothing new — the family are all well and send you much love

My next will contain a remittance

In haste

Your devoted Father

H. T. Lawrence

own expenditures

I went as far as Cincinnati with Mr Jenkins upon his return home on Tuesday evening — He got off next morning after spending some 2 weeks with us — He looks better than I ever saw him has a hard flinty look — as if he could stand much hardships I hope the place this year will make enough to pay off its own expences & improvements heretofore It has been a continual draft upon me to keep up the establishment & continue its improvements this year — If the wheat crop turns out well & a fair price rules for wheat & Hogs of which he has a fine lot the aggregate cost of which $1000 I shall have to meet — this I trust will be the last advance

that it will be necessary for me to make.

Mr Buchanan has committed a great blunder in attempting to back up the Lecompton Convention, in the attempt to force upon the people of Kansas a constitution - against their consent. The submission of but a single clause of the constitution to the people to vote upon - is one of the most glaring & atrocious outrages ever committed in the country & complicates very greatly the difficulty - I see but one mode of escape - That is to adopt for their guide - a similar law to that adopted by Congress for the admission of Wisconsin - which was as the unqualified - prerequisite of admission - that the qualified voters of the Territory or a majority of them should signify their assent - by a vote of the people fairly taken - and when ascertained

Worcester, Friday Dec. 18th
1857

Mr. Duncan

I acknowledge with pleasure, the receipt of your letter and though a stranger take the liberty, of answering it, this my first leisure moment.

So you are duly installed, within the walls of old Harvard, where you wished me to direct my letters. your letter was brief and as I am to take yours for a model, I now close hoping to hear from you soon. Adieu A. Warren

I would be much pleased, to continue this correspondence, which you have so kindly commenced.

Please direct to Miss Ada A. Warren

Worcester

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Dumcannon Dec 21st 1857

Dearest Brother

I wish you a Merry Christmas and a happy New Year. A few weeks after Christmas and you will be at home the time will soon be here - I was just looking over my letters - among them I found an invitation to Mr Warren's dated Dec. 18th. I cannot realize that a year has past since then, how time flies. Where will you spend your Christmas

I wonder, I do not expect to enjoy it more than any other day, I may attend the Episcopal church upon Christmas day, with Miss Higgins, Sallie W. and Ellen Cooley have gone to Cincinnati to spend their a week or two - and will of course attend the Soldier wedding - it is to be a reception, what a grand time the girls will have, Oh dear me, I have the "Blues" to day. the "Blue Devils" as they are called - No wonder it is a rainy day - Mother is not very well to day I feel miserably - I would give a great deal to have a good cry - but I am not nervous enough for that - I do wish you were here - I want to see you so much - I wish you would remember me to Mrs Browningshall when you see her - or give my love, or whatever she sends me, What does Lillie Greenough do with herself now? I must write to her tho Mrs G. if she does not intend to write to me again some of these days - I must go and practice - All join me in love to you Your loving and devoted sister

Mary.

himself highly pleased with my performance, and requested the pleasure of dancing a Shottische with me, to which I assented, and he acquitted himself better than you could have supposed it possible.

We are about having a "Sociable" next Friday evening. The Lexington is out of town just now. The "Lovely Pal" is gone to Cincinnati with Miss Ellen Woolly. Miss Mary Beggs is gone somewhere, I forget where, and Miss Morgan is in Frankfort. Hence the beaux are on hand and must be can make out a sufficient number of fairies to keep them in countenance.

I was in town today and found that the city was kept in order and defended by a number of Black-guards who at this present festive season congregate there by the hundred for the better preserving of Riotous and disorder.

I had a letter from Mr. Sidon a few

Lexington, Ky. Dec. 26th 1857

days since. I did not intend to stand on ceremony with you my dear friend and had just commenced a regular gossiping epistle somewhat in Silas style when I received your welcome letter. Now before proceeding farther let me assure you that you need not wait for Boston news to make your letters interesting to me, whatever concerns yourself is all I care to hear, and your studies, amusements, the hearts you break at the "Sociables" which you favor with the light of your countenance will always furnish you with materials for an epistle intensely interesting to

the friends who now write to you.
And now after this preamble it is time to wish you a Merry Christmas & happy New year and many happy returns of both. We had a very pleasant party here yesterday - Your father invited Drs. Green & Mathews, with their better halves. Made Darry & his half (I shant say the better one) Miss Green, Rob Winston, and our friend Frank, to meet Dr. Mummard and his son, from Paris France, they are the Cousins and Nephew of your former teacher Miss Smedley. Dr Mummard is a most interesting young man, he speaks English fluently and seems to be quite conversant with our literature as well as with the best American writers. Dr Mummard is also very agreeable, and I think well calculated to carry out the project which has brought him to this country. You have probably seen a notice of him in the newspapers, he comes here for the purpose of raising thirty thousand dollars to build a church in Paris - strange that "La belle Paris" should resort from us Americans in the backwoods as a means of civilization. Well about our party. I was gallanted in to dinner by Dr Green who is called my pet, and your father took charge of the aristocratic Mrs G. the Dr is really a charming man, I am sorry he is about to leave him, he leaves next week for Danville, you see I make that he has been appointed in Dr Young's place. Miss G sang two or three songs very prettily, amongst the rest the Star Spangled Banner. After the ministers left we recently closed by my dancing the Polka with Frank to the no small astonishment of your Parisian parent - who notwithstanding his surprise expressed

making the darkness more perceptible.
I regret exceedingly to hear that Boston
has suffered so much from the
late financial depression. I feel
really sorry for the Lawrence
affair - is not Mr. L. the father
of the handsome Miss Mary Lawrence?
I suppose you have met her - I think
her very much.
How is Charles Chauncey? remember
me to him, and my little kind
regards and best love in which
I am joined by all here - I will
bid you good night.

Remaining as ever,
Your's most sincerely,
M. S. Higgins.

Dec. 26, '57

weeks since in which she expressed
her regret at not seeing more of you.
She says nothing about Miss G. however
so I am inclined with you to think
it is a slander.
Write me if I am still interested
in Astronomy - I like it as well
as ever - but I have lately taken
flight in an opposite direction
and am now deep in the mysteries
of Geology - Some years ago I heard
Professor Hitchcock lecture on the
subject before the "Young Men's Christ.
Association" and was very much pleased.
But having seen some extracts in
"Blackwood" from Hugh Miller's "Testimony
of the Rocks" - I became very much
interested in this special theory

and purchased the book this fall. You have no doubt read it - it is very interesting - tho' I am reading it with the disadvantage of understanding little or nothing of the scientific matter contained in it - the names for instance of the fossils, give me a head ache to spell much less to pronounce. Hugh Miller has done a great deal for Christianity - it is of great importance that the seeming incorrectness of the Mosaic account should be accounted for in a reasonable manner, and that the startling revelations made by recent Geological discoveries should be proved to be perfectly reconcilable with Scripture, - at least as far as we can reconcile any the subjects which are but imperfectly understood.

I am looking forward with a great deal of pleasure to your return in January. Mr Fielton left Lexington some time since ~~Lastfront~~ a teacher so I shant give you the trouble of hunting up one for her. You get enough of that business last year - and you were not so successful - as to induce you to run undertaking of the same kind soon - possibly the remembrance of the charming trip you had with me may make you wish to have an equally interesting change this January.

We have had some fine acting at the theatre here lately - Murdoch and a few other stars have shone for a few nights - and disappeared

Dunsmuir.
Dec. 31st 1857.

My dearest Brother

I shall now proceed to give you some account of our Christmas. Miss Higgins I think has given you a description of the dinner, On Tuesday evening I had ~~the~~ long talked of Sociable, and it passed off very pleasantly but Mother was taken quite sick with cold after I had invited the company and she was not able to come down stairs on Tuesday - so I had to manage

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everything myself. I wish very much you could have been here, we will give you all the particulars when you get home, we are all so anxious to see you what day of the month do you leave? I have two favors to ask of you, first that you will, color your mustache, and wear it home, you can cut it off after we see you Mother is very anxious to see you with one you can use Boyles dye and no one will be any the wiser, and then I want you to bring your Oxford ~~for~~ Cap home and I shall borrow Mr Berkleys gown and have your "picture" taken, with your Moustache on. Now please do, I presume you have, like myself formed many good resolutions for the ensuing year which begins to-morrow. I hope we shall be enabled to keep and fulfill all of them, wishing you a happy New Year and many a happy return I am your loving and devoted sister

Mary.