

LETTERS OF EDWARD HITCHCOCK AND FAMILY

1819 – 1864

Transcriptions of the original hand-written
letters in the collections of the
Amherst College Archives and Special Collections,
Amherst, Massachusetts

Transcribed by
Robert T. McMaster
2017-2020

Introduction

Edward Hitchcock (1793-1864) is best known as a geologist and paleontologist who taught at Amherst College from 1826 to 1863 and served as the third president of the college from 1845 to 1854. He was also a minister who preached in churches throughout southern New England for over thirty-five years. He married Orra White in 1821 and the couple raised six children in their home adjacent to the Amherst College campus. Orra created thousands of drawings, woodcuts, and paintings that Edward used in his books and in his teaching.

Hitchcock was a prolific letter writer. In his *Reminiscences of Amherst College* he refers to his “epistolary correspondence” during his presidency as “peculiarly onerous,” numbering four or five hundred letters per year, not counting letters of recommendation for students. But he wrote many letters throughout his adult life and likely received as many in return.

I have read and transcribed over three hundred letters of Edward, Orra, and their children in the course of my research. Most of these are held in the Amherst College Archives and Special Collections; nearly all have been digitized and can be accessed online at acdc.amherst.edu. I used voice-to-text software to dictate the letters from the images into a document file, then reread them, comparing the transcription to the images of the originals.

Of the 316 letters transcribed below, all but about thirty are from the Amherst College Archives and Special Collections. Most are originals, but twenty-five are photocopies of letters held in other locations.

Five letters are from the Pocumtuck Valley Memorial Association library in Deerfield, Mass.; two are from the Mount Holyoke College Archives and Special Collections, South Hadley, Mass.; twenty-four are from the Biodiversity Heritage Library (biodiversity.org).

Not included in this document are the many letters in the Amherst College Archives between Edward Hitchcock and Benjamin Silliman which have been transcribed and extensively annotated by Robert L. Herbert of Mount Holyoke College.

My transcriptions appear below in the order in which I completed them. The numbers assigned are my own. The location of each letter within the Archives or elsewhere is shown in brackets at the beginning of each letter.

Pages were seldom numbered by the letter writer. The page numbers shown are in most cases the number of the image; in many cases a single image includes two written pages. When available I have also transcribed information from the envelope including the address, return address, and in some cases information from the postmark. Many variations in spelling have been preserved in the transcription. In a few instances punctuation has been added to make the meaning clearer. My comments are shown in brackets. Unreadable words and phrases are indicated by four question marks in brackets: [????].

I have previously completed transcriptions of Hitchcock's sermons, geological survey notes, and private notes. It is my intention that these will eventually be made accessible online. Early in 2021, I expect that my biography, *All the Light Here Comes from Above: the Life and Legacy of Edward Hitchcock*, will come into print. It is my hope that the book and these transcriptions will inspire others to further studies of Edward Hitchcock.

I am indebted to Amherst College and particularly to Margaret Dakin and Michael Kelly of the Archives for preserving the unpublished writings of Edward Hitchcock and making them accessible to all. If you make use of this transcription, please be sure to cite your source including, of course, the Amherst College Archives and Special Collections.

Please send comments or corrections to me at RobertMcMaster24@gmail.com.

Sincerely,

Robert T. McMaster
Williamsburg, Massachusetts
December 7, 2020

Abbreviations:

EH Edward Hitchcock (Sr.)
OW and OWH Orra White Hitchcock
EHJ Edward Hitchcock, Jr.
MH Mary Hitchcock
EHT Emily Hitchcock Terry

Letter 1

[EH to Epaphras Hoyt, 12 August 1819, Hitchcock Family Papers, PVMA, S 925.51 H674L Manuscript]

New Haven August 17th 1819

Dear Sir,

I have been lately looking at some of the late Nos. of Tilloch's Magazine and of Thomson's Annual of Chemistry etc. sent me by Prof. Silliman. They do not contain much that is very interesting. They are published monthly and are much smaller than Silliman's Journal and not near as well executed. In Tilloch's Mag. For April, I think is a particular account of the uniting of the great Trigonometrical Surveys of France and England. The English Astronomers embarked for the French coast (I forget what place) with their instruments and were there met by the French astronomers. Here they tried their respective instruments in getting the latitude and found them to agree exactly!! This survey extends through 6° of Latitude and the principal object of it has been to measure the meridian. When this labour of several years was completed so satisfactorily it of course produced much joy and much cannon firing – and drinking and beef eating. Prof. Kingsley has handed an abstract of the account to Mr. Davis the editor of the Christian Spectator in this city and I suppose it will appear in a few days.

[James L. Kingsley, Classics Professor at Yale]

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I have before me the Manatis Scientific Journal published in N. York. It is small and mostly devoted to analytical questions in mathematics. It has been discontinued for a year and lately revived by publishing a No. consisting of tally sheet. Prof. Fisher has much to do with it. Many of the most difficult questions and solutions are his.

[Possibly Alexander M. Fisher, Prof. of Math.]

I have had two opportunities lately to purchase at auction Gregory's Dictionary of the Arts and Sciences in 3 vols thick quarto. It appears to be a fine work and is on the plan of most encyclopedias. I had thought of purchasing it for your library – as I could have got it for 12 or 15 dollars – original price \$30. But I did not know you would want it. I think had I been authorized I could have purchased many works that could have suited a library company for about one third of the original cost. I think it probably there will be another auction about the time of Commencement.

Dr. Ives lately received 345 sorts of seeds of plants that will grow in the U. States from the Botanical Garden in Paris. He offered to give me samples of most of them if I would make out a catalogue—and I have done it and have...

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...obtained about 280 seeds. Among them are many seeds of trees and shrubs and also common garden vegetables several species of greens not growing in this country are among them.

I wrote to Major J. A. Saxton to come after me. And from some things written by Dr. Williams I thought he would be here as soon as this. I have hoped to see you here as I perceived by your writing on your letters lately that you had not gone to the Springs. But I have nearly given up the expectation.

While I am writing the bell is tolling for the funeral of another child of Prof. Silliman. He lost his oldest boy some time since – and these afflictions I perceive affect him sensibly. – A young man who in some way or other escaped from quarantine ground died a few doors from my boarding place last night it is said of the yellow fever. Whether it be that or not it is pretty near it. People feel some alarmed. But I hope such a disorder will not prevail here. I will thank you however not to mention this fact, lest my mother get it. My health has in general been better this summer than usual. In a fortnight past I have been rather complaining and I impute it to the excessive hot weather.

A very interesting case was tried in the Sup. Court in this town last week concerning the digging up of dead bodies for dissection by the Medical Students last winter. Prof. Knight was the defendant. It occupied two...

[Prof. Jonathan Knight, Prof. of Anatomy]

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...days when the Professor was acquitted.

I do not know that I have written any thing that will interest you: but it will not take you long to look it over: so that you will not lose much.

The Journal will not appear at present – probably not for several months. I suspect it will hereafter be published in quarterly Nos. two of which will constitute a volume. Matter continues to flow in for it.

I received a letter some time since from Prof. Cleaveland containing a long list of mineralogical queries connected with my piece in the Journal. He will soon publish another edition of his Mineralogy. He is one of these indefatigable diggers. Yours etc. E. Hitchcock

[Below folds]

I will thank you to mention to Dr. Williams that I received a letter from him last week. As I had nothing particular to write I think it will be best not to answer it if I return soon after Commencement.

Addressed to: Gen. Epaphras Hoyt, Postmaster, Deerfield, Mass.

Postmark: August 27 New Haven

Letter 2

[EH to John Torrey, 1820, EOH, Series 2-B, Box 5, Folder 23]

[Plant names are approximate and have not been checked against any botanical references.]

Plants sent to Dr. Torrey 1820

1. Poa
2. Agrostis
3. Scirpus
4. Dicranium
5. Rubus obovalis
6. Ranunculus filiformis
7. Utricularia
8. Cyperus diandrus
9. Helianthus decapetalus
10. Cucumis? africanus
11. Galium trifidum
12. Salix
13. Ditto
14. Ditto
16. Ditto
17. Ditto
18. Viola
19. Viola rotundiflora
20. Viola papilionacea
21. Viola canadensis
22. Cornus paniculata
23. Azalea
24. Ribes
25. Ditto triflorum
26. Nethia tortilis
27. Ditto Nov. Sp. Bigelow
28. Prunus
29. Aquatic plant from Sunderland
30. Sorbus americana
31. Artemisia
32. Myosotis scorpioides
33. Myosotis?
34. Verbena spuria
35. Herbarium No. 33 page 225
36. Ditto ditto page 228
37. Cornus
38. Cornus
39. Viburnum
40. Equisetum

41. Arabis hydrate?
42. Ribes
43. Rubus
44. Galium barbatum
45. Cornus
46. Galium
47. Fraxinus juglandifolia
48. Ditto sambucifolia
49. Potamogeton setaceum
50. Cornus
51. Lycopodium annotinum
52. Cymbidium corallorhiza
53. Ditto odontorum
54. Acer rubrum
55. ditto saccharinum
56. Ditto [????]
57. Scirpus new species from [????]
58. Cenomyce
59. Ditto
- 60.
- 61.
- 62.
- 63.
- 64.
- 65.
66. Cenomyce
- 67.
- 68.
- 69.
- 70.
- 71.
- 72.
- 73.
- 74.
- 75.
76. Cenomyce
- 77.
- 78.
- 79.
- 80.
81. Cenomyce

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82. Cornicularia
83. Cornus florida

84. Ditto angulata
85. Ditto
86. Ditto plicata
87. Agaricus
88. Ditto laevis
89. Ditto confertus?
90. Agaricus
91. Boletus
92. Ditto
93. Agaricus
94. Lycopodon
95. Hydnum
- 96.
- 97.
- 98.
99. Thaelaephora religiosa
- 100.
- 101.
- 102.
- 103.
104. Peziza
105. Boletus
114. Pamelia stellaris
125. Marchantia polymorphy
- 126.
127. Marchantia
128. Pamillia
129. Ditto
130. Ditto
- 131.
132. Pamelia
- 134.
135. Pamelia
136. Ditto
137. Ditto
138. Ditto
- 139.
- 140.
141. Perva?
- 142.
- 143.
159. Jungermannia
188. Carex
189. Ditto
190. Ditto
191. Ditto
192. Salix
193. Thymus

- 194.
- 195.
196. Cassia
197. Agaricus
198. Ditto
199. Agaricus
200. Polygonum articulata
201. Scirpus capitellum
202. ___ autumnalis
203. Cyperinum strigosus?
204. Poa pastinacea
171. Buxfaunia applylla
172. Sphagnum No. 1 page 22
173. Helvetica (painting)
174. Poa
175. Rhynchospora?
176. _____ formata No 2, page 31
177. Poa
178. Alopecious Proteus
179. Poa
180. [????] Bellstone
181. Elymus
182. A. glaucifolius
183. Carex
184. Ditto

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30. Azalea viscosa
37. Echium vulgare 275
38. Erysimum barbua 219
39. Helianthus divarica71
40. Sagittaria latifolio 158
41. Ditto
42. Ditto
43. Ditto
44. Polypodium 160
45. Hedyceum glutinosa 298
46. Physalis peroxyll 110
47. Spirea?
48. Ranunculus funnicaris
- 49.
- 50.
51. Convallaria pubescence 222
52. Ditto multiflora 150
53. Eupatorium Verbena 2073
54. Ditto [????]349

- 55. *Liatris scariosa* 271
- 56. *Aricas epigaea* 88
- 57. *Thlipsis campestris* 173
- 58. *Rhus* 173
- 59. *Arabis* 166
- 60. *Campanula medium*
- 1. *Vicia*
- 2. *Listera canadense*
- 3. *Gnaphalium purpureum* 20
- 4. *Meotha questia* 62
- 5. *Aralia meliconia* 39
- 6. [????] 126
- 7. [????] 135
- 8.
- 9. *Solidago neomoralis* 251
- 10. Ditto *striata* 247
- 11. Ditto *serotina* 244
- 2. *Solidago* 252
- 3. Ditto 252
- 4. Ditto 314
- 5. Ditto 257
- 6. Ditto 239
- 7. Ditto 237
- 88. *Aster*
- 89. Ditto 310
- 90. *Solidago flexicaulis* 324
- 91. Ditto [????]

Plants sent to Dr. Bigelow

- 1. *Cyperus* [????]
- 2. *Callithueteone inguinis*
- 3. [????]
- 4. *Eupatorium agratoides*
- 5. *Potentilla* [????]
- 6. *Quercus Montana?*
- 7. *Corydalis glauca*
- 8. [????] [????]
- 9. *Gnaphalium* [????]
- 10. *Leersia* [????]
- 11. *Onoclea sensibilis*
- 12. *Nuphar* [????]
- 13. *Euphorbia hyperifolia*
- 14. *Gnaphalium purpureum*
- 15. *Panamier palustris*
- 16. *Chinipodium vulgare*
- 17. *Cassia chaemcinita*
- 18. *Myosotis arensis*

19. *Caulophyllum thalictroides*
20. *Streptocarpus americana*
21. *Minispermum canadense*
22. *Gerardia crinita*
23. *Statice limonium*
24. *Angelica triquinata*
25. *Potentilla pensylvanica*
26. *Corydalis curularia*
27. *Linum* [????]
28. Ditto [????]
29. Ditto
30. Variety of *Brechetium virginiana*

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31. *Solidago ciliaris*
32. *Asplenium thursophyllum* [????]
33. *Cornus sericea*
34. *Datura diphylla*
35. *Eleusine indica*
36. *Erigeron strigosus*
37. *Erigeron barbarea*
38. *Thioracium virgatum*
39. *Hedysarum glutinosus*
40. [????]
41. *Prunus serotina*
42. *Scirpus filliformis*
43. *Scirpus minimis*
44. *Thalmia glauca*
45. *Andromeda polifolia*
46. *Myrica gale*
47. *Neothia gracilis*

Plants sent to Dr. Torrey

Number name page

- 1 *Lycopodium* compl. 182
2. *L. dendrod.* 183
3. *L.* [????] 184
4. *L.* [????] 183
5. *L. clavatum* 183
6. *L.* 256
7. *Carex* 2
8. *Carex* 9
9. *Carex* 11
10. *Juncus* 11
11. *Carex* 12

12. Carex 16
13. Carex 18
14. Panicum 19
15. _____ right hand 25
- 16 Juneau's book of Grasses extreme left
17. Ditto
18. Scirpus 7
19. Ditto 15
20. Ditto minimus 9
- 21 Cyperus trichosis 15
- 22 Juncus 16
- 23 Panicum 10
- 24 Viola spicata 1
25. Anendo Pragmites Book of Grasses
26. Oryzopsis asperifolia 45
27. Grana sensibilis 85
28. _____ foliosus 50
29. Potamogeton graminium 159
30. Parmenia palustris 81
31. Salix 90
32. Viola debilis 71
33. Euphorbia hyperifolia 340
34. Lathyrus latifolius 400
35. Cicuta bulbifera 340

Letter 3

[EH to John Torrey, 1820, EOH, Series 2-B, Box 5, Folder 22]

Dried specimens of Plants put up and sent to Dr. Torrey A. D. 1822

[List of approx. 200 species, mostly fungi and mosses, not transcribed]

Letter 4

[EH to John Griscom, 6 August 1824, EOH, Series 2-B, Box 4, Folder 38]

Conway 6th August 1824

Dear Sir

I did not reply to your obliging letter of nearly a year since, because I could not afford you any assistance in regard to localities of minerals for your contemplated edition of Phillips, and my situation ever since has been such as to render it impossible for me to exchange minerals. It would be it would give me

pleasure to do this, if it be in my powers, and I am not without hope that ere long I may be able to send you a box. I do not know, however, how I shall be able to forward it, as there is no direct communication between this place and New York. I could send to Albany every day by the stage, yet really I am not acquainted with any one there to whom I could commit a box. Any specimens you might think proper to return would be gratefully received. I have not an extensive collection of foreign specimens, although it is always been my wish to collect one, and I have been in the habit of getting together a good supply of duplicate specimens of minerals in this vicinity; and here had many opportunities to exchange for foreign specimens. But a constant pressure of more imperious duties, and a feeble state of health exceedingly discouraging in the effort, and I cannot yet find time and strength to analyze the specimens already on hand. I live too, so much alone, in a mineralogical sense, that it is impossible to do much in natural history. However, I can rejoice to hear what others are doing in throwing light on the works of God, and in the effort of success in the efforts and success of no one more than yourself. I have not seen...

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...your edition of Phillips, nor the new Journal of which I have seen you noticed as the editor. And it is not until recently that I have obtained your "Year in Europe" — which, give me leave to say, appears to have been a good year's work. I am particularly pleased that in this work you are not afraid to acknowledge on all proper occasions, the overruling providence of God — a subject many of our best travellers seem to keep out of sight, lest they should incur the fastidious sneer of some literary atheist.

I send herewith a copy of my Sketch of the Geology etc. of the Connecticut, fitted up book-wise; but you will do me the favor to except — although I suppose you have it nearly all in the American Journal of Science.

Believe me sir very sincerely your friend and servant,

Edward Hitchcock

Professor Griscom

Addressed to: Professor John Griscom New York

By Mr. Dickinson

[William Phillips (1775-1828), British mineralogist and geologist. He wrote Outlines of Mineralogy and Geology (1815) and Elementary Introduction to the Knowledge of Mineralogy (1816)]

Letter 5

[EH to JG, 20 August 1828, EOH, Series 2-B, Box 4, Folder 38]

Amherst 20th August 1828

Dear Sir,

I herewith transmit, in the name of the Junior Class of this College, a translation of Prof. Cordier's Essay on the Temperature of the Interior of the Earth; begging you to accept a copy. The translation has been executed in rather too much haste, from the desire to have it completed before Commencement; but I hope you will not find it materially inaccurate—I recommended it to the class in the hope of interesting them more deeply in the lectures I was delivering on Geology: still, it may perhaps be regarded as rather presumptuous. If you could speak favourably of the enterprise, the class, as well as myself, would be greatly obliged to you, should you give a short notice of it in some of the newspapers, or other periodicals of your city—where will be offered for sale immediately.

Very respectfully yours

Edward Hitchcock

Addressed to: John Griscom LLD, New York

[Unrelated notes scribbled in one corner]

Recd. for tuition The Powers \$12.75 Wycoff \$7.50

[John Griscom (1774-1852), American chemist and educator; Cordier's work was "Essai sur le Temperature de L'Interieur de la Terre"]

Letter 6

[EH to Sylvester Hovey, 4 July 1824, EOH, Series 2-B, Box 4, Folder 46]

Amherst 4th July 1824 [or 1827?]

Dear Sir,

I thank you for your attention to my concerns with Gen. Howe. I think he must have made some mistake in regard to the amount due from me as I have his account made out by his clerk last spring. It is as follows—

Vols. 11 and 12 American Journal of science	\$6.00
Two sets Christian spectator for 1826	\$6.00
One set for 1827	\$3.00
Johnson on the Liver	\$1.25
Johnson on the disorders of the bowels	\$0.625
[Total]	\$16.875

Elliott's Botany
Journal of Science

\$8.00
\$13.00

I am not aware of having paid any part of the above: but if he has given me credit for any part on his book I am not disposed to pay it the second time. Gen. H. wrote me sometime since that he had procured for me a work by Scrope on volcanoes agreeably to my order price \$3.17. There was a mistake in regard to this book. I mentioned to him at his request several late works in natural history which I thought might...

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...sell in this country and Scrope among the rest: but I had no idea of ordering the work for myself. However if he so understood it I shall not refuse to take the work. Please just state the case to him and also to tell him that if he will obtain for me De Candolle's *Produces of the Natural Orders of Plants* I should be glad. The work was recently advertised by Carey and Lee of Philadelphia. It seems I shall be still in Gen. H.'s debt about \$2 even if he does not send Scrope as Elliott's Botany amounts to \$8. You may let the balance stand against me and I will attend to it. As to Elliott's botany I should be very glad to receive it as soon as I can and if you will send the packet as you suggested to Francis Parsons I shall be obliged to you—adding Scrope if the Gen. requires me to take it.

I am glad you are going to Wms. [Williams] College although I should have been better pleased to have had you here. But as to unfriendly feelings between the Colleges I am confident that so far as the faculty of Amherst are concerned no hostile feelings are harboured. In regard to myself I think I could as conscientiously labour in the one institution as the other because I can see their objects to be the same and I believe the sentiment is rather gaining ground that it is better to have several smaller Colleges than a few larger ones – though I have doubts myself of its constructs. I hope hereafter there will be more intercourse between the officers of the two institutions than there has been.

There is nothing especially interesting in this region to communicate—I have not heard recently from Conway—Mr. Tucker of Northampton is about to be settled in Troy New York. We shall probably employ Doctor Pratts a Spaniard now in New York as a teacher in modern languages next year. The Mount Pleasant school is in a flourishing state—upwards of 30 scholars. ??? the French instructor there appears to be a highly intelligent man.

Mrs. H. wishes to be remembered to you affectionately. I hope you will let us see you in the autumn. We celebrate independence today by turning out with hoes and shovels to make improvements on the College grounds.

Sincerely yours

Edward Hitchcock

Addressed to: Mr. Sylvester Hovey, New Haven Connecticut
Postmarked: Amherst Mass. July 4

Letter 7

[Letter from EH to Sylvester Hovey, 4 October 1831, EOH, Series 2-B, Box 4, Folder 46]

Amherst October 4, 1831

My dear sir

Your very acceptable letter of July 18th was received during my absence in vacation and since my return I have found no time to reply. Previous to that time the President and your mother had received letters that you wrote soon after your reaching Liverpool. Louisa has recently received one from you of the same date with mine. We all rejoice to hear so favorable news from you and that a kind Providence has thus far attended your wanderings. I expected that the voyage would be very trying because it so breaks up all a regular land man's habits. But perhaps this breaking up or rather change of habits was necessary to produce a new action in your constitution and I am happy to learn that the ultimate effect of so severe discipline appears to be favorable. I am more afraid your getting over excited than almost anything else amid so many objects of thrilling interest. I hope you will keep in the hold a good supply of the ballast of philosophy to make the ship go steady: though I confess it appears easier to me to give advice of this kind than to keep it. And I confess with the little stock of this material which I possess I should expect in your circumstances to be thrown on your beams ends.

The opinion of Dr. Johnson concerning your health is certainly of great weight from his extensive acquaintance with complaints like yours. I trust it will give you...

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...new courage.

We feel greatly the importance of improving the present favorable opportunity for the purchase of books. But I fear that little will be done to raise funds till it is too late so we are making some efforts. But you know how difficult it is for us to have in term time and in vacation most of us have other plans which is hard to give up. The President was absent three or four weeks last term for health: the present term he appears better though a little extra effort I am confident will bring him down again. He goes today to attend a meeting of the American Board for Foreign Missions at New Haven.

We have started the wheels of College again for another year and I believe they move without much friction. Mr. Russell and Mr. Hackett are here as tutors and I think they will do well. Our freshman class is unexpectedly large amounting at present to 58 and as many as 8 or 10 have joined the other classes: so that the loss of a large class of 60 at Commencement is more than made up. The students enquire with much interest concerning yourself and the new apparatus. And should Providence permit you to accomplish the objects for which you visit Europe and return with invigorated health I think you will

have rendered an important service to the College. We do not look for you at all till next summer. But we trust that ere long you will let us know your plans on this subject.

During the last vacation I have found what appears to be quite a rich deposit of gold in diluvial soil in the lower part of Vermont on the east end of the Green Mountains on land of S. & S. Wilder Esq. Should you meet with any of the European geologist you may tell them as a proof of the immense extent of some of our rock strata that this Vermont gold occurs in the same formation (Talcose Slate) as that of Carolina and Georgia and that this rock is probably continuous nearly the whole extent of N. America. I am now commencing the preparation of my Geological Report having gone over most of the state.

Little has occurred in this region since you left that is interesting except the common changes of this changing world. I have been to Conway several times since you left once very recently—all are in comfortable health. Mr Taylor of Sunderland has been sick for five or six weeks with a fever and it is even yet doubtful how it may go with him. Louisa has been quite sick with an influenza for some days but has recovered. We have made efforts to get up a female school in this village and have raised \$250 for fitting up a room and apparatus and become responsible for \$250 more should it be needed to defray the first year's expenses. We ????? very much to place Louisa at the head of it: but ??? that she is engaged for the winter at Buckland. The Amherst Bank is completed standing a little south of Boltwood Tavern.

There may be some other things in your letter to which I have not replied. But I sent it to Conway: and as it may be some time before I receive it I thought I would write you at this time lest you should think I had forgotten you. I know by experience that time seems much longer to those abroad than to those at home.

Mrs. H. joins me in fervent wishes and prayers for a blessing to attend you for your safe and happy return to the midst of us. Should we then be among the living we shall expect to derive much pleasure from a recital of your adventures.

Sincerely yours etc. Edward Hitchcock

Addressed to: Professor Sylvester Hovey, Paris, France
Care of Henry Edwards Esq. Rue de Clivy No. 9.
Postmark: Le Havre, November 2, 1831

Letter 8

[EH to William B. Sprague, 3 September 1835, EOH, Series 2-B, Box 5, Folder 21]

Amherst September 3, 1835

Rev. and dear Sir,

The state of my family is such (Mrs. H being in very feeble health) that it will be out of my power to receive the son of Mr. MacIntyre as a boarder. And I find on enquiry that the same is the case with the other professors on the ground who have families. Mr. Condit the professor elect of Rhetoric and oratory is coming on next term and I believe expects to keep house: but whether he would receive boarders is uncertain. His mother-in-law however who superintended his family concerns is from N York, the widow I believe Dr. Broadhead and perhaps she might be induced to take young MacIntyre. I would remark here however that it is a mistaken idea which prevails on abroad that it is any great security to a young man's morality to have him in the family of an officer of a College. If disposed to mischief it will indeed make him a little more shy in his tricks but he will find opportunity...

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...for mischief in spite of the vigilance of any man. If a young man has not himself resolved to resist evil influence he had better keep away from College. If he is willing to take a steady pious and judicious student for a room mate one whom he respects it is a better security that the oversight of a professor. I mean that kind of oversight which makes him feel as if he were constantly watched.

Respectfully yours,

E. Hitchcock

P.S. Until I saw an extract from your senior respecting my essay on the use of wine at the eucharist I had not made up my mind to publish the piece. But I am now inclined to think it may be my duty to print it if I can find time to get it ready for the press.

Addressed to: Reverend William B. Sprague, Albany, New York

Return addresses: Amherst Mass. September 3

Letter 9

[EH to Stephen Van Rensselaer, 3 May 1828, EOH, Series 2-B, Box 5, Folder 28]

Amherst Mass. May 3^d 1828

Hon. Sir,

Though personally unacquainted with you, I take the liberty to send you a lithographic view of the College in this place, together with a Catalogue and outline, with a view to make a suggestion which I hope you may not been in pertinent.

The grand object in founding this College was to raise up ministers of the gospel: and most of its funds were given by pious individuals in small donations. Besides the college edifices, this institution possesses a fund of \$50,000 the interest of which is appropriated towards defraying the expenses of pious students. It is also in debt between about 30 thousand dollars. Were it not for this debt, the tuition of the present number of scholars would pay the expenses of instruction etc. To get rid of that debt therefore is an important object. Recently about 9000 or 10,000 dollars have been subscribed, but this will be only about enough to pay for the edifice now erecting; so that the debts will still remain. Now the College is still nameless; and it has been suggested to one or two gentlemen of property that...

Page 2

...their names might be attached to it, provided they were to make a handsome donation. What their decision may be I know not: but some of us feel very desirous that the man whose name the college shall bear should be himself decidedly pious; both on account of the prayers which we know would accompany such a man's donations, and because we wish that his biography may be contemplated with pleasure by the church in future ages. On these accounts permit me to suggest this subject to you: although in relation to your pecuniary resources I have little personal knowledge. Yet of your munificence towards the benevolent operations of the day, and towards the cause of education, the vehicles of public information bear ample testimony. In regard to the permanency and future magnitude of this institution we think its location, the remarkable success that has already attended it in spite of the most powerful opposition, and above all, the consideration that it was founded in prayer and by the friends of the church and for the use of the church, furnish no equivocal pledges of durability and enlargement. Whether you should listen or not to the suggestion I have made, it would give us great pleasure to have you pass this way to examine the site and the construction of our colleges.

I ought to have mentioned that out of 209 at present connected with the college 126 are professors of religion. We enjoy at present a revival of religion which has hopefully brought in about 15 – six, who were hoping before, make a public profession of their faith tomorrow, making the whole number 132.

Permit me to subscribe myself very respectfully your obedient servant,

Edward Hitchcock

Addressed to: Honorable Stephen Van Rensselaer, Albany, New York

Letter 10

[EH to Unidentified, 30 January 1831, EOH, Series 2-B, Box 5, Folder 33]

Amherst January 30th 1831

Dear Sir,

I have been requested to prepare a review of the late work of our mutual friend Professor Silliman on Chemistry for the North American Review. But a severe pressure of previous engagements and a state of health that will not permit extra exertion renders it impossible to execute the task although I should undertake it very cheerfully if circumstances were different and I felt a little more confidence in my ability. It has occurred to me however that if it is in your power to do it a review coming from you will be peculiarly proper as you are among those who have borne the heat and burthen of the day in respect to chemistry in our country and can therefore enter upon the subject with more sympathy of feeling than those of us who began our career later. I feel a peculiar solicitude to have the work exhibited in its true light (which I think will be a favorable one) since it has been most scurrilously attacked by an anonymous writer as you are probably aware. I hope if possible you will take hold of the business and prepare a review for the next No. or next but one of the North American Review. I know that several of Mr. Silliman's friends besides myself are anxious for it and I doubt not that it would be peculiarly pleasant to the writer to have you take his work in hand.

Truly yours etc.

Edward Hitchcock

Letter 11

[EH to Greene, 17 March 1834, EOH, Series 5-C, Box 12, Folder 4]

Amherst March 17th 1834

Dear Sir,

The recent order of the Government for the printing a second edition of my report will afford an

opportunity to make alterations and editions where they are needed. Should you think of any for your Catalogue of shells you will oblige me by sending them on within two or three months and they shall be attended to with pleasure. If I do not hear from you I shall conclude that you have none to make.

In order to give the catalogue a uniform appearance I propose to insert them all in the style adopted in the first edition in the list of plants: that is let the genus be printed in large type and occupy a separate line. Have you any objections to have your catalogue appear in this manner? If you have your wishes shall be attended to.

Yours respectfully and sincerely

Edward Hitchcock

[Probably Thomas A. Greene, Esq., of New Bedford]

Letter 12

[EH to Miss Grant, 31 July 1835, EOH, Series 2-B, Box 4, Folder 36]

Amherst July 31st 1835

Miss Grant,

I have taken it into my head to make a few enquiries of you which you I trust will feel yourself at perfect liberty to answer or not as you please. I make them without consulting anyone and merely to satisfy myself whether it will be of any use to consult anyone.

The first enquiry is would you on any conditions come to Amherst and establish a female school in the Mount Pleasant Buildings? If you say no then you need not even read any further much less reply. But if you say or think yes then on what terms would you come? Those buildings might probably be bought or rented at this moment as low as they ever could be as the present occupant will leave in a few weeks. Whether the people of Amherst would do anything as to getting them I do not know: but if there were any probability that you might be willing to come I should feel disposed to sound their dispositions a little. You know so much...

Page 2

...all about all our affairs here and about the Mount Pleasant Buildings that I need to add nothing on these points: and I suppose you also know that a school here would not at all interfere with the proposed one for Miss Lyon. She would rejoice to have you here.

If your engagements to the Ipswich school are such that you could not consistently leave I would by no means ask it: for I have too high a respect for several of the gentleman who are interested in that school to wish to injure it.

You need not feel under any obligation to reply to this: but I hope you will feel under some obligation to say nothing about its contents.

An interesting revival exists in Miss White's school: although this would by some probably be thought incredible were they told that some 30 or 40 of her scholars have attended lectures in College all summer.

Mrs. Hitchcock (who is in poor health) wishes to be affectionately remembered to you.

Respectfully and sincerely yours

Edward Hitchcock

Envelope addressed to: Mrs. Z. P. Grant
Ipswich Mass.

Return address: Professor Hitchcock Amherst August 1835
Amherst Mass. August 1

[Miss Zilpah Polly Grant established the Ipswich Female Seminary in 1828 with Mary Lyon as her assistant.]

Letter 13

[EH to Rev. William Tyler, 4 June 1835, EOH, Series 2-B, Box 5, Folder 26]

Amherst June 4th 1835

Rev. & dear Sir,

If you want another agent to labour for the Mount Holyoke Female School I think you can obtain Rev. Mr. Grosvenor of Ashfield either for a long or a short period. He wishes to quit his people and would probably like to go away under cover of such an enterprise. But I am told that he also feels deeply interested in this project and would probably make a good agent. I am not however...

Page 2

...personally acquainted with him.

In much haste I am very respectfully yours

Edward Hitchcock

Addressed to: Rev. Mr. Tyler, South Hadley Canal, Massachusetts

Return address: Amherst Mass. June 5

Forwarded from So. Hadley 6th May

[In pencil] President Amherst College – See “Appleton”

[Also in pencil] Letter Professor Hitchcock June 4, 1835

Letter 14

[EH to Bela B. Edwards, 31 March 1836, EOH, Series 2-B, Box 4, Folder 32]

Amherst March 31st 1836

Dear Sir,

Your April No. of the repository has been received and I find that my article is printed with great accuracy. I notice only a few errors of no great importance such as even for ever—analogies for analogues etc. which do not destroy the sense.

I observed that you have given an article on Ararat. I have lately received a pencil sketch of those mountains taken by Mrs. Perkins as she passed there a year or two ago with her husband. Mrs. P. has accompanied it with some statement about the mountain and the diluvial phenomena around it which I intend to introduce into the article I am preparing on the historical and geological deluges. Would you not like to have the sketch for your work? I intended to offer it to the American Journal of Science but have not yet done it—and I should rather prefer to have it appear in your work if you wish things of this sort. I think it a tolerably good sketch and if necessary Mrs. Hitchcock...

Page 2

...will copy it with India ink.

I am trying to get my article ready for the next No. of your Repository: but as the subject is a difficult one I hope you will allow me as much time as you consistently can.

If I do not hear from you soon I shall conclude that you do not wish for the sketch of Ararat.

Respectfully and sincerely yours

Edward Hitchcock

Addressed to: Mr. Bela B Edwards, Boston Mass.

Return address: E. Hitchcock March 31, 1836

Postmark: Amherst Mass. April 1

Letter 15

[EH to William L. Marcy, 4 May 1836, EOH, Series 2-B, Box 5, Folder 1]

Amherst May 4th 1836

Honoured Sir,

The right of inspecting everybody whom they employ, which you remark in your letter of the 29th inst. is claimed by the people in this country, appears to me legitimately to belong to them, and considering what human nature is it must be exercised. In the charges which I made for the geological survey of Massachusetts, this right I always supposed was exercised for I was obliged to keep an account of the minutest items of expense, and the whole account was subjected to close scrutiny. I acknowledge, however, that since the service was a peculiar kind and only one individual was employed in it, it would not have been a difficult matter to have presented a false account, had I been so disposed. But it occurred to me that where a number of persons are employed, as in the survey of New York, there would not be such an opportunity for fraud; since a comparison of the accounts of the different surveyors would show if any of them had overcharged, unless all happened to charge too much in the same item: a case which would not be very probable. I make these remarks, however, by way of apology for my suggestions in my last letter as to the mode of compensation proposed by you: and not in the expectation that you will alter the mode which you have determined upon to suit my convenience.

If I understand you sir, you propose to allow me...

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...at the rate of \$1500 per annum for such a portion of the year as I might be able to be in the field or rather in the mountains and it would be expected that I should bear all my expenses. Now if I were employed five months my salary would be \$625. But judging from my bills and expenses when surveying this state, I should not have any hope of being able to keep my expenses during those five months lower than between \$500 and \$600 for I was as economical as it is in my power to be; since it was a particular

object with me to keep my expenses as low as possible, lest the legislature should stop the work. At this rate, I should receive for my services over and above my expenses about \$100 for five months: while the proportion of my salary which I must relinquish here during those five months would be something above \$300. And I must also incur considerable additional expense for extra help in taking care of my family while absent. Thus I should be a loser by several hundred dollars and after having looked over the calculation again and again, I cannot see where there is any fallacy in it.

As an interesting (though very laborious and responsible) scientific enterprise, I should indeed be pleased to engage in this survey, even without pecuniary profit. But the wants of a numerous family render it my imperious duty to attempt to obtain a reasonable pecuniary compensation for my labours; since I have scarcely any other means of supporting them. It is probable however that you may find gentlemen so situated that they can conveniently devote nearly all their time to this survey, and to whom pecuniary compensation is no great object.

Your Excellency seems to be of opinion that the surveyors will be relieved of a considerable part of their expense by the liberality of the people. I do not doubt at all but a surveyor might by taking a certain course secure his board nearly all the time without expense: but if he lives upon the hospitality of the people, he will be obliged in return to spend a great deal of time in examining pyrites, yellow mica, and common mineral springs. I tried this method sometimes but soon found that it retarded me exceedingly. And for the most part I made only such enquiries as enabled me to ascertain where useful minerals might be found etc. My course was to have my horse and wagon always with me, fitted up with harness etc. for breaking and carrying specimens. At sunrise I usually began my examinations, and by sunset had filled my boxes with specimens and the evening was devoted to examining labeling and packaging them. But this could not be done except at a public house. Had I taken a different course I am sure I should have lost more in time than I could have gained in expense.

I perceive, sir, that this business of expenses constitutes the principal difference of opinion between us. For I have no fears but that a government as liberal as that of New York is willing to allow a competent salary to its servants. I may be mistaken as to expenses: but as my opinion is founded upon my former experience, it seems unwise in me to change it at present.

Although in the present aspect of this business it seems little probability that we can come to an agreement that will be satisfactory to both, yet as I am now released from College duties, I have nearly made up my mind to visit Albany as early as Monday or Tuesday of next week. If I do not engage personally in the survey, I shall by my visit be able to learn more than I now know of the situation of this great enterprise. If however sir you should judge, on reading this letter, that there is no prospect that we can come to an agreement, you will concur a great favor by dropping me a line immediately; as I have no other business whatever at Albany. Should anything prevent my going, I will inform you as early as Tuesday.

I suppose the name of Professor Dewey has been mentioned to you as a candidate for engaging in this survey. As he has now become an inhabitant of the Western District of N. York, allow me to express a hope that one so well qualified may be secured for the examination of that district.

I am sir with great respect your obedient servant

Edward Hitchcock

Addressed to: His Excellency, W .L. Marcy Esq., Governor of New York, Albany

[Across top] Geological Edward Hitchcock letter

Letter 16

[EH to William L. Marcy, 9 June 1836, EOH, Series 2-B, Box 5, Folder 1]

[This appears to be a copy or extract of a letter to Governor Marcy]

Letter to Gov. Marcy, June 9th 1836

(Extract)

I have at last made up my mind to comply with the terms expressed in your last letter (June 2^d) if you think proper to give me a commission. I understand these terms to be that I am to receive \$1500 per annum in quarterly payments and I am not obliged to spend more than five months and explorations abroad during the year. I am also to bear the expense of transportation and subsistence and to deposit the specimens at some point along the Hudson and Long Island Sound with no other expense to the state except for paper and boxes necessary for the packaging. I am also to have assigned to me District No. 1 and Mr. Charles B. Adams of Andover Mass. Is to be appointed my assistant.

??? copy

E. Hitchcock

P. S. After having said so much on the subject in my previous letters it is hardly necessary for me to say in this place that in accepting this appointment I cannot but regard the compensation as very inadequate to the labour to be performed and this is even more decidedly the opinion of every scientific gentleman whom I have committed. Indeed had I followed their advice and looked chiefly to pecuniary considerations I must have declined the appointment. Neither does the hope of acquiring scientific reputation influence me since I have the impression very strongly that it is not a field in which I can hope to gain any new laurels. But I feel a strong love for the pursuits arduous though they are and I cherish the hope that they may have an invigorating influence upon my constitution which want at this...

...time their influence. And these considerations along with the strong confidence I have that the wealthy and honorable state of N. York will not suffer those who are faithful in his service to go unrewarded have induced me to send you my acceptance of this appointment.

Letter 17

[EH to William L. Marcy, 9 June 1836, EOH, Series 2-B, Box 5, Folder 1]

Amherst June 9th 1836 Professor & Geologist

Hon. Sir,

The time for final decision in respect to the geological survey seems to have fully come. And I have at last made up my mind to comply with the terms expressed in your letter if you think proper to give me a commission. I understand these terms to be that am to receive \$1500 per annum in quarterly payments and I am not obliged to spend more than five months in explorations abroad during the year. I am also to bear the expense of transportation and subsistence and to deposit the specimens at some points along the Hudson and Long Island Sound with no other expense to the State except for paper and boxes necessary for the packaging. I am also to have assigned to me District No. 1 and Mr. Charles B. Adams of Andover Mass. is to be appointed my assistant.

Presuming that I have not mistaken your proposed terms I have commenced preparations for taking the field and have requested Mr. Adams to hold himself ready to comply with your Excellency's wishes. I am very anxious to commence...

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...to the work before the oppressive heat of July as I greatly fear that without some previous hardening they would prostrate my health. I hope therefore that if there be no mistake as to terms I may be authorized to commence operations immediately. If you should not think best to forward a regular commission a letter directing me to engage in the work and authorize me to employ Mr. Adams will be sufficient until the proposed meeting of the surveyor shall take place. I should also wish to be informed when and where that meeting will be and how many suites of specimens it will be expected the geologist will collect. I would then proceed as soon as possible to the Highlands where I apprehend is the key to the geological survey of District No. 1.

Very respectfully yours

Edward Hitchcock

P. S. After having said so much on the subject in my previous letters it is hardly necessary for me to say in this place that in accepting this appointment I cannot but regard the compensation as very inadequate to the labour to be performed and this is even more decidedly the opinion of every scientific gentleman whom I have committed. Indeed had I followed their advice and looked chiefly to pecuniary considerations I must have declined the appointment. Neither does the hope of acquiring scientific reputation influence me since I have the impression very strongly that it is not a field in which I can hope to gain any new laurels. But I feel a strong love for the pursuits arduous though they are and I cherish the hope that they may have an invigorating influence upon my constitution which needs at this time their influence. And these considerations along with the strong confidence I have that the wealthy and honorable state of N. York will not suffer those who are faithful in his service to go unrewarded have induced me to send you my acceptance of this appointment.

Addressed to: His Excellency William L. Marcy Esq., Governor of New York, Albany, New York

Return address: Professor Edward Hitchcock

[Written on the back of the envelope in ink]

Geo. W Newell, James M. French...Thomas

Postmark: Amherst Mass. June 10th

Letter 18

[EH to Henry W. Bishop, 16 October 1837, EOH, Series 2-B, Box 4, Folder 22]

Amherst October 16th 1837

Dear Sir,

Your kind attentions and assistance when I was in Lenox emboldened me to trouble you still more—a reward which benevolent men are very apt to receive in this selfish world.

It has occurred to me that it would be a very important object to have specimens of all the important varieties of marble in Berkshire County polished and put up in Boston as a part of the state collection so that members of the legislature and others might see them. The room of the Natural History Society with the state collection is deposited is very fine and is visited by a great many people and if the Berkshire marble were there I cannot doubt but it would increase the demand for them. There are it is true a few specimens in that collection but they give no adequate idea of your marbles—I conversed

with Mr. Boynton of West Stockbridge on the subject and he thought that specimens of all...

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...the varieties in that town could not be prepared for less than \$20 or \$25. This would make them for the whole county cost more than the government would probably give. But if they could be got for \$40 or \$50 I think there would be no difficulty. The specimens need not be more than five or six inches square and indeed ought not to be much larger than that. Now it occurred to me that perhaps you might be able to negotiate with the providers of the different marble quarries in the county without a great deal of trouble as you would see men from the different towns during the week. If you could do it I should be greatly obliged to you. But if the object does not appear to you important do not make yourself the trouble. I should not make the request if I knew the proprietors of the different quarries.

Perhaps specimens might more easily be obtained unpolished. If so I could get them polished at Boston. My plan would be to have them ready when the Legislature meet next winter so that I could refer to them in my report. Perhaps the time is too short.

I have been constantly absent since I was at your house so that I have not yet analyzed the marl from Berkshire. I hope some other beds may have been brought to light ere this.

Mrs. H. joins me in respectful remembrance to yourself and lady.

Respectfully and sincerely yours

Edward Hitchcock

Addressed to: H. W. Bishop Esq. Lenox, Berkshire County, Mass.

Return address: Professor Hitchcock October 11/37

Postmark: Amherst Mass. October 16

[Possibly Judge Henry W. Bishop]

Letter 19

[EH to Edwin W. Pierce, 20 August 1838, EOH, Series 2-B, Box 5, Folder 10]

Amherst College August 20th 1838

Mr. Edwin W. Pierce has completed his regular four years course in this institution and from my

knowledge of his respectable standing in his class as a scholar and a gentleman, as well as of his theory of moral character, I can recommend him to the public as well qualified for the instruction...

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...of youth or other literary pursuits.

Edward Hitchcock

Professor Chemistry and Natural History

Addressed to: Mr. Edwin W. Pierce, College

Letter 20

[EH to Salem Lyceum, 29 July 1840, EOH, Series 2-B, Box 5, Folder 11]

Amherst July 29th 1840

Dear Sir,

I have delayed to answer your letter longer than I ought in the hope that I could make an arrangement to comply with the request of the Salem Lyceum respecting lectures. I had rather expected that before this a change might have been made in the vacations of our College so that I would be absent six or eight weeks after Thanksgiving: but it has not been done yet. However another difficulty I fear is still more formidable. I am so occupied (incessantly indeed) in preparing and printing my report on the Geology of the State but I can have no reasonable hope of finding time to prepare lectures to deliver at Salem. It will be unwise therefore to attempt what I shall be so likely to fail in performing. The recollection of the pleasure which I received last winter from my visit to Salem has made me very reluctant to come to this conclusion. But I see no way of avoiding it.

Very respectfully yours

Edward Hitchcock

Letter 21

[EH to Roderick Murchison, 5 September 1842, EOH, Series 2-B, Box 5, Folder 6]

[Possibly Orra's handwriting; suggesting this was a copy of Edward's letter]

Amherst Massachusetts U. States of America
September 5th 1842

Dear Sir,

Allow me to express my obligations for a copy of your able and interesting Anniversary Address before the London Geological Society last February. It has afforded me a rich fund of information respecting the progress of geology. But my pleasure in its perusal has experienced a drawback visit by finding in the first place that you suppose me to have misstated your views on the subject of drift; and in the second place by finding that you have misapprehended mine. It is on this account that I venture to address you at this time.

When I placed your name in my address among those who had "more or less fully adopted" the glacier theory, I did it on the authority of a friend of London who is a member of the Geological Society. But I knew very well that you had not fully adopted it. For in a note on page 28 I quoted a passage from your pamphlet on the geological structure of Northern and Central Russia which gave your theory of drift in that country very definitely. Indeed, I scarcely have a clearer idea of your views after reading the fuller exposition of them in your address except that I did not know how large a part of our continents were there in your opinion beneath the sea. But I then had the impression that if anyone admitted that the phenomenon of drift were the effect of ice urged over the surface by whatever vis a leigo he might be said to have partially adopted the glacier theory. I now perceive that such a statement would convey a wrong impression and regret that my expressions were not more guarded.

If I had made the statement in the form Dr. Buckland has done in his anniversary Address for 1841 (page 661) I suppose it would have been unobjectionable; and yet I hardly meant more.

In the Note to my address above referred to after stating your view concerning drift in Russia, I add that "very likely the glacier theory may need some analogous modification to adapted to this country (America). In another Note on page 24 I declare myself "satisfied that it will need important modifications.

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Now do not such expressions show that when I declared in the Address that I was "constrained to believe the fundamental principles of Glacier theory to be founded in truth," I meant only such principles as were consistent with modifications as important as those you had adopted in respect to the drift of Russia?

Such certainly was the meaning I intended to convey; or rather the final conclusion at which I arrived was so stated on page 29th that "glacio-aqueous action (by which the joint actions of ice and water without deciding which has produced the greatest influence) has been the controlling power in producing the phenomenon of drift."

This conclusion embraces as you will see the complete dynamics of drift. And that was as far as I meant to go in respect to the glacial theory. I became satisfied by the perusal of the *Etudes sur les Glaciers* that ice with stones and sand frozen into its undersurface and moving over the surface might produce just such effects as I had for 25 years been examining in the northern part of this country: I mean our smooth embossed and striated rocks. The iceberg theory is so ably illustrated by Mr. Lyell and yourself never had brought distinct examples of such effects from drift ice. Hence it was that the work of Agassiz threw such a "flood of light" into my mind. I saw how all the phenomena of drift might result from the joint action of ice and water; and this to me who up to the time of writing my Address had remained skeptical as to all theories was a most interesting conclusion; and I felt a little in the spirit of crying out Eureka! Eureka! But I never dreamed of adopting the glacier theory unmodified. The objections stated in my Address were to my mind inseparable, so as this country is concerned; though I thought it wise not to state them so strongly as I felt them.

Since that time I have taken a journey of 400 miles to the White Mountains, the highest perhaps with one exception on the eastern side of the continent to see whether I could find there any evidence of glaciers. But I found only the same marks as at lower levels viz. smoothed and striated rocks by a force from the northwest.

These I found at the height of 5000 feet; and there is as yet no evidence that glaciers ever existed in the United States. This has always been my belief; and when I use the term moraine in my Address I meant by it an accumulation of detritus by the action of ice whether in the form of glaciers or iceberg. These brought out in detail in a long article which I read in the presence of Mr. Lyell before the Association of American Geologists last April. Nor did it appear to me that they were discrepant at all from the views given in my Address; though I now see by looking over that Address that the reader might suppose me to be an advocate for the entire theory of Agassiz. But I meant to maintain only the joint action of ice and water has produced the phenomena of drift. Whether that ice and water were merely the ocean before our continents had risen above it as you and Mr. Lyell suppose; or the northern ocean thrown suddenly over the land as De la Beche supposes, or an immense sheet of ice spread over the polar regions and melting on its southern border, so as to produce southerly currents according to the theory of Agassiz; I feel unable to decide. Though my feelings rather lean towards the iceberg theory. I have certainly no decided opinion as to which of these hypotheses are true, if any of them are. I am willing to stop where I have satisfied myself what is the true dynamics of the subject; and I am by no means certain that geologists will ever make out much beyond that except conjecture.

As an American I would thank you for your reference to Peter Dobson (whom I take to be a native of this country though I am not personally acquainted with him) as the "original author of the best glacial theory." But it occurred to me at once to enquire whether you were not doing some injustice to Sir James Hall in not speaking of him as having suggested an aqueo-glacial theory essentially like that of Mr. Dobson, who does not say whether the water and ice were the result of a deluge, or the currents of the ocean. Mr. Hall is indeed a diluvialist: but he pointed out furrows and striae on the rocks which he supposed were produced by the detritus borne along by the waters; among which he says that "the ice on the higher mountains containing imbedded masses of stone " (I quote from Rees Encyclopedia Article System, not having Mr. Hall's memoir at hand) "would be stripped...

...off and being specifically lighter than water, it would render the stones buoyant and carry them to distant countries." I do not know that he gives a specific account of the action of these embedded stones upon the surface over which they moved, but I have always supposed that to be implied in his statements. At any rate that was my interpretation of this theory twenty years ago, but it was not till the researches of Agassiz and others that I felt satisfied that moving ice would produce such effects.

I should not have troubled you with this long letter if my own private opinion on drift had been alone concerned. But I feared you had got the impression from my remarks that the unmodified glacial theory had been extensively adopted in this country by geologists whereas I do not know anyone who adopts it and I am sure that I do not and never have. I trust, therefore, that you will excuse the length of my letter.

It is been stated that you propose ere long to visit this country. I can assure you of a hearty welcome; and should you find objects of interest enough to tempt you into the interior of New England where I live, I can promise you what we gave to Mr. Lyell and Lady very plain living and a very cordial reception. With great respect sir I am sincerely yours

Edward Hitchcock

[Roderick I. Murchison (1792-1871), British geologist.]

Letter 22

[EH to Prince Malek Kasim Meira, 1842, EOH, Series 2-B, Box 5, Folder 9]

[This appears to be a copy of the original letter.]

To his Royal Highness Prince Malek Kasim Meira

Governor of the Province of Aderbijanin Persia

Honored sir,

From the very flattering manner in which my friend Rv. J. Perkins has described to me the efforts you are making to promote the cause of learning and improvement in the arts among the people over whom you rule I have been induced to send you a copy of my report on the Geology of Massachusetts. This work was executed under the direction of the Government and will give you some idea of what kind of enterprises the Rulers of this country think it for their interest to patronize. I have strong hope that erelong men will be raised up in the schools which my friends the American...

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...Missionaries in Persia have established who will be so well acquainted with Geology as to be able to make similar surveys in Persia. It gives me great pleasure to learn that you have always been the prime friend of the schools and these missionaries. Gladly would we retain these worthy men in this country. But so strong is their desire to instruct the ignorant Nestorians in science and religion that they are willing to forsake friends and country and flattering prospects to spend their lives among the Nestorians. I cannot doubt that they may always rely upon your protection patronage and friendship as they always have done in their laudable efforts. Nor can I any more doubt that if they are able to carry out their plan fully you will find an ample reward for your kindness in the progress of civilization and useful knowledge among your people. It will always give me great pleasure to hear of the advancement of science in Persia and of your continued health and happiness.

I have the honour to be your Highnesses most obedient servant

Edward Hitchcock

Sent the above with my report but no answer was ever returned.

Letter 23

[EH to Rev. Moses Miller, 2 August 1843, EOH, Series 2-B, Box 5, Folder 3]

Amherst August 2nd 1843

Rev. & dear Sir,

The hand of God has indeed come heavily upon you in smiting out another of your children in such rapid succession. But trials with you are no new thing neither as I trust our support and consolation. We too feel painfully bereaved in the loss of your son concerning whom we had entertained high hopes and we feel as if the church had suffered a sad bereavement. It needs strong faith in such cases to follow direction *be still and know that I am God*.

I am sorry not to be able to comply with your request to preach at the funeral. I will not plead as a sufficient reason for not complying that the trustees of the Mount Holyoke Seminary meet tomorrow (of which I am one) though it is very desirable to attend. But really having no sermon at all prepared I feel unable to get one ready and reach Heath in...

Page 2

...season as I am this summer in very precarious health and find it difficult to get along with doing little

and great care. I fear Mr. Fisher will not be able to get anyone to go with him as the Faculty are very much occupied just before Commencement and some of them are absent.

Please to express my condolences to Mrs. Miller and believe me yours sincerely and respectfully

Edward Hitchcock

P. S. I have had evidence of late that your son was unusually ripe for his departure.

By Rev. M. Fisher

Reverend Moses Miller, Heath

Letter 24

[EH to Abbott Lawrence, 1848, EOH, Series 2-B, Box 4, Folder 50]

The trustees of the College at their next meeting will doubtless offer to you an official expression of their obligation and I doubt not ask your permission to attach your name to the building—or rather perhaps as more appropriate to the Cabinet as the two buildings are quite distinct and will be spoken of in that manner. They mean also to place a marble slate in the Cabinet containing the names of all the gentlemen who have aided in its erection as an act of justice and gratitude.

I beg your acceptance of our last annual and Triennial Catalogues with my marginal Inaugural Address and submit myself

Very respectfully

Your grateful servant

Edward Hitchcock

[In parentheses in pencil] 1848

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[Along the edge of the page]

Abbott Lawrence

Letter 25

[EH to AAAS, 30 October 1849, EOH, Series 2-B, Box 4, Folder 18]

Amherst College, October 30th 1849

To the Publishing Committee of the American Association for the Advancement of Science

Gentlemen,

Having learnt from your printed circular of Oct. 5th that the Proceedings of the last meeting of the Association have not yet been published, I take the liberty to enclose for your examination a letter from Professor W. W. Mather respecting the origination of the Association of American Geologists. The statements which he makes, accord entirely with my recollections but as I rarely retain copies of the letters which I send, I cannot give the language of my letter to him in 1837, to which he refers. I remember only that for some years before the first meeting was called, it was a favorite object of my thoughts and desires; and I doubt not that my letters to other geological friends about that time would bear witness to my suggestions concerning it. I am glad, moreover, to bear still further testimony to Prof. Mather's interest in the subject, by a quotation from a letter dated October 27, 1838 (only one day later than the letter from which he quotes) and of which he probably did not preserve...

Page 2

...a copy. He says, "I wish much that a meeting of the American Geologist could be affected. There are many points of high scientific interest that require discussion and interchange of opinions and observations. And there are many subjects that require the combined action of numerous individuals over our widely extended country."

Now the enquiry which I would respectfully suggest to the committee is, whether, since the last year's report of the Association contained an erroneous statement on the subject, justice to Prof. Mather and myself, as well as regard to correct history, does not require that our statement should appear in the report of this present year? That the committee will decide this question aright I have the fullest confidence.

And remain very respectfully
their humble servant,
Edward Hitchcock

P. S. When the committee have no further use for Prof. Mather's letter, they will oblige me by returning it.

Addressed to: Prof. Jeffries Wyman and others
Committee of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, Cambridge, Mass.

Postmark: Amherst Mass. November 1

Letter 26

[EH to James G. Ames, 16 May 1849, EOH, Series 2-B, Box 4, Folder 20]

Amherst May 16th 1849

My dear Sir,

I feel mortified that I have so long delayed to reply to your letter. The first one requesting a letter from me while you were at Washington was neglected in consequence of a great pressure of labours till I found on looking at it that I was too late to answer your purpose. I suppose however it would have done you little good had I written for I know of no natural history collection worth visiting except those at the Patent Office—that of the Academy of Natural Science and Philadelphia (the best in many respects in the country) and that of the Lyceum of Natural History in New York unless it be Dr. Jay's collection of shells in New York and I suppose you have seen all these.

Before going to Washington I had recommended Mr. Whitney...

Page 2

...to be associated with Mr. Foster as successor to Dr. Jackson in the Geological Survey. But when at Washington I found Dr. Jackson there calling on his friends to help him. I merely suggested that he might be continued in the survey a few months till he could make out a report. But I have no doubt his fate is sealed and probably justly: nor do I doubt that Mr. Foster will know him.

Prof. Adams has just returned with large collections and I don't not will be glad to get the things to which you refer. I just spoken to him on the subject and find that you are in correspondence with him.

In much haste I remain most truly yours

Edward Hitchcock

Addressed to: James T. Ames Esquire, Chicopee (Cabotville), Mass.

Postmark; Amherst May 15

Return Address: Edward Hitchcock May 16, 1849

Letter 27

[EH to Ebenezer Hale, 19 May 1849, EOH, Series 2-B, Box 4, Folder 39]

Amherst May 19th 1849

Dear Sir,

Your obliging letter was received yesterday and I am truly grateful for the kind interest you and the other members of Dr. Wilson's family take in our welfare. It is true we had a northerly wind and considerable rain most of the way home. But it did not seem to affect us unfavorably and we thought indeed that we were particularly favored in respect to the weather. It was this that led me to push on so that we reached N. York on Tuesday night. I felt quite well till after my return: but attempting to preach on Saturday night I found my cough returning and today I think it is quite as bad as before I went south. It is aggravated by an accident I met with. In fitting my horse to get up on his back according to Dr. W.'s recommendation he stomped on my foot and tore off the great toenail entirely and it is very sore and painful confining me to the house. I feel somewhat discouraged but still hope that my troubles will pass away when the weather is warmer. The wind has now been northerly for ten days, although not very cold. The peach trees are now in full bloom the apple trees not fully out: but there is more freshness in the landscape than we saw at Richmond.

I thank you for your suggestions about the Byfield gentleman. Nothing has yet been done as to the matter and I shall present your intimations to the Faculty.

I regretted much that I was not able to present your letter to your brother in New York. I started towards night to go to his office but recollected another errand which must be attended to and then it was too late.

We thank you for your offers and wishes as to the strawberries. When the wind blows from the south perhaps we shall smell them at any rate I hope they...

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...do much towards curing you. And I advise you to stay and eat them sometimes longer yet for I apprehend we shall have cold winds here sometime longer. As the weather grows warmer I trust you will be able to take more exercise abroad and since I sincerely hope God will bless you—your efforts to reinvigorate your constitution. We shall calculate much upon seeing you and your excellent wife and no less excellent mother to whom I desire to be kindly remembered at our house in the course of the summer. Please remember me to Mrs. Shelton as well as to Dr. Wilder his wife and daughter. A few weeks spent in their and your society will ever be remembered by us with lively interest and if we see not one another more in time God grant we may meet at his right hand in glory.

Most truly yours Edward Hitchcock

President Hitchcock 1847

Addressed to: Dr. Ebenezer Hale, care of Dr. A. H. Wilder, Richmond, Virginia

Letter 28

[EH to G. T. Bond, 1 August 1855, EOH, Series 2-B, Box 4, Folder 24]

Amherst August 1st 1855

Dear Sir,

Sometime last spring I forwarded a bill for services in exploring the coal property of the Great Kanawha Company directing it to the President Alvan Smith Esq. I have never heard anything from it officially nor indeed in any other way so as to know what was done with the account. I understood Mr. Pratt whom I have scarcely seen since that it had been before the board and I got the impression that it was allowed. I suppose you must know and as I am not certain where a letter would reach Mr. Smith I venture to...

Page 2

...trouble you to give me any information on the subject in your power.

After such a famous campaign as we had together last winter I had hoped to meet you ere this: but Amherst is very much out of the world save to those who delve in Latin and Greek.

Most truly yours

Edward Hitchcock

[Upside down at foot of page in a different hand]

Edw. Hitchcock D.D. to G. T. Bond

Letter 29

[EH to Gov. Henry Gardner, ca 1855, EOH, Series 2-B, Box 4, Folder 35]

To his Excellency Henry Gardner governor of Massachusetts:

Honorable Sir,

When I received a commission from Governor Boutwell in 1853 to examine the Surface Geology of Massachusetts (which work was to be done gratuitously) I had already been engaged for several years under the patronage of the Smithsonian Institution on the same subject mainly in the valley of the Connecticut River but embracing parts also in other parts of the country and even in Europe. I had even got a report almost ready for that institution: but up to this day I have not been able to finish it. It is now ready and is in the form of two papers, one "On Surface Geology especially that of the Connecticut Valley in New England;" and the other, "On the erosions of the earth surface especially by Rivers." If judged worthy the Institution will publish them and it has occurred to me that perhaps the legislature would wish to obtain copies. The Maps and other drawings are numerous and since many of them were obtained out of Massachusetts and are chiefly of a scientific character I...

Page 2

...should not feel justified introducing them into any future report I may make on the subject to the Government. Yet as I have in these papers gone into the principles of surface geology more than I should do again and as so many of the facts were obtained for Massachusetts I ventured to send you these papers for inspection before forwarding them to Washington leaving it to your judgment to decide whether it be best to call the attention of the Legislature to the subject. I offer these papers in this form as a sort of scientific introduction to a future report which if Providence permits I hope hereafter to make upon the Surface Geology of the whole of Massachusetts. I wish it to be understood that they are chiefly of a scientific character: but they they reveal if I mistake not some curious facts respecting the former condition of the country and the marvelous changes it has undergone and tend to awaken the youthful mind to the study of nature's works: an object which it has ever been the policy of the Government of Massachusetts to promote.

With high respect
I subscribe myself
faithfully yours

Edward Hitchcock

Letter 30

[EH to Hannah Smith, 20 September 1856, EOH, Series 2-B, Box 5, Folder 20]

[Written in another hand, perhaps Orra's; the names Hannah A. Smith, Jane Smith, Debbie F. Smith, and Sallie L. Smith have been written in pencil at the top.]

Amherst Sep 20 1856

Ladies,

You can hardly imagine the pleasure a poor isolated author receives when his works are commended by the wise, the great, especially if they are ladies. For I suppose it to be admitted, that though men may cherish and mean to detract when they seem to praise, a true lady is always to be understood as speaking the real sentiments of her heart. I have never been a favorite with the ladies, and therefore your epistle coming from the city of sisterly love, is the more gratifying. From having spent so much more time among the rocks than in the drawing room, I may have mistaken the female character. But I found one sample of it to whom you refer, and whom the dedication of my Religion of Geology celebrates whose prominent trait of character is sincerity and honesty, and I very naturally transfer this trait to all ladies.

When you speak of the "poetic mind" of this friend, I assure you, you greatly mistake her character. To her practical good sense and Christian...

Page 2

...simplicity, instead of spurring up my Pegasus, have greatly clipped the wings of my fancy and pruned many an excrescence from my theories.

You have made a great poetic discovery in my lecture, and no wonder you enquire for the author and many of his works. I am happy to be able to gratify you, by pointing out the source of the wonderful line you quote and show you where you can get a volume of them. In my absence, the printer took these three lines to the poetry, because they were written on separate lines, to indicate the great poetic divisions of the subject—and because the word poetic is something the proofreader, being a mathematician, was perhaps of the same opinion. Follow this example, then, and you can get as much typographical poetry as you wish.

As you cannot discover any "Religion" connected with my "Geology," allow me to suggest as you seem to have leisure, and have four minds to work with, when I have but one, that you should undertake to do which I have failed in, and thus bless the world: for I assure you, that if Geology and Religion are not connected by somebody, Geology and Irreligion will be by a sceptical world; and this is the thing that has underlaid all my efforts.

The most gratifying notice I have ever seen of my Religion of Geology, was in the Boston Investigator—an atheistic newspaper in which a writer devoted at least twelve numbers to the most violent assault upon me and my work which language would admit. I was gratified, because the roaring of the monster showed that I had wounded him; and because —

*"By such to be despised
Were no small praise."*

I do not rank your mark your epistle as high: yet I assure you, it has a lofty place in my estimation.

In conclusion, let me beg of you all, ladies, not to regard any of my encomiums upon my unknown friends as mere flattery, but as the outgushings of a heart that feels deeply its obligations for their delicate epistle.

Most truly yours
Edward Hitchcock

P. S. It is quite natural for us to try to form some idea of the personal appearance of benefactors whom we have never seen.

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And the enquiry has arisen in my mind whether you all look as much alike as your signatures. If so, one hand might as well have made them all. But this is dealing more in "fancies" than in "facts;" against which you have [????] me. *Par nobile sororium!* [A pair of famous sisters]

I thought of thanking you in the name of my deceased friend. Dr. J. Pye-Smith and Prof. Buckland. But since you represent my work to be so largely derived from theirs and then speak of the whole of it – well—as you have—I think it best to refer you to Dr. Hare's Spiritoscope for their opinion.

Letter 31

[EH to John Brooks, 26 October 1857, EOH, Series 2-B, Box 4, Folder 27]

Amherst October 26th 1857

Dear Sir:

I received your pamphlet addressed to me, for which I thank you. I have read it and I am gratified to find that you have treated the subject in a manly and gentlemanly manner and with ability: not descending to personal abuse, but endeavoring to defend your points by arguments.

On subjects about which so much has been written, I did not expect to find much that is new: nor do I feel called on to make any public reply. My hands are too full, during the few remaining sands of life; with what I regard is likely to do more good, than to engage in such a controversy.

You seem to be fully convinced that I have given but a comparatively slight attention to the great doctrines of the...

Page 2

...Gospel.

I have not, indeed, any knowledge of this kind of which to boast, and feel my deficiency. But during the thirty seven years in which I have been a preacher of the Gospel, (fifteen as a settled pastor), I have read two books with some care, which seem to me utterly irreconcilable with your view. One is the Bible which I read on my knees while yet my mind was undecided on the great truths; or rather was inclined to scepticism. But I satisfied myself that the Bible is true, and determined to embrace whatever truth I found in it, however opposed to carnality and learned pride. In this way was my creed formed. Can you say the same?

The other book is Butler's Analogy, which I have read through more than twenty times with ease, and which I do not believe anyone can well understand or appreciate without several perusals. Butler has shown that God in his natural and moral Government does act upon principles in respect to punishment probation etc. which you regard as so abhorrent to benevolence and justice. If so, every serious mind cannot but apprehend that He will act on the same principles in another world: since He is unchangeable. This argument always presses upon my conscience with great power, whenever I think of future retribution.

But I will not enlarge, and subscribe myself

Respectfully yours

Edward Hitchcock

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To John Brooks, M. D., Bernardston

Received his pamphlet addressed to me, a brief examination etc. of Adam's Fall, etc.

Letter 32

[EH to W. A. Hallock, 24 October 1857, EOH, Series 2-B, Box 4, Folder 41]

Amherst October 24th 1857

Dear Sir,

In my last meant just what your language implies viz. that "I wish you to leave off my name, and to make the preface and finale just as you and the ladies see best"—but I did not ask you nor do I now to send me a proof of both before stereotyping them. For I wish you to take the whole responsibility and not ask me to give an opinion upon...

Page 2

...any point. I had indeed expected to share in that responsibility but matters have taken such a course in respect to me personally that I cannot consistently have anything more to do with the work. I do not doubt that you have acted with entire conscientiousness in the matter and with the best intentions nor do I doubt (as I rather infer from your sending me Mr. Hank's opinion that you suppose me to doubt) that the Memoir in all its more important features will be well executed and extensively useful. But you will know that what was my part of it has been rewritten so as not to leave one page of my composition and of this I had no information beforehand. I should have thought it very ingenuous to have done this with the other parts of the work and therefore I feel personally and deeply aggrieved and I scorn now to take the credit of what others have done by having my name prefixed to their labours as if they were mine.

I do not suppose that you will finally understand or appreciate my feelings in this matter. For there is a secret history of it most of which I have all along known you to be ignorant.

Page 3

But as it bears chiefly upon myself (quorum pars fini) I prefer to let it remain among the things not in this world to be uncovered that are [????] [????] [????] [????] to my children when they read my private journal after I am gone.

Most truly yours

Edward Hitchcock

To Rev. W. A. Hallock D. D.

[This might refer to Hallock's "Light and love." A sketch of the life and labors of the Rev. Justin Edwards, D.D., the evangelical pastor; the advocate of temperance, the Sabbath, and the Bible. He was the agent and recording secretary for the American Tract Society.]

Letter 33

[EH to Hannah White, 31 August 1857, EOH, Series 2-B, Box 5, Folder 30]

Amherst August 31st 1857

Miss White

Dear Madam,

On my return from my journey I found your request of the 11th instant. Nothing would gratify me more than to comply: But in addition to a wretched state of health my hands are more than full with labours which I cannot put aside. I have nothing prepared that would answer and have not a single day to spare in preparation. I will not go into details but wishing you much success in your important undertaking I remain

Most truly yours

Edward Hitchcock

Miss Hannah White, Hartford, Connecticut

Letter 34

[EH to Heman Humphrey, 20 April 1858, EOH, Series 2-B, Box 4, Folder 47]

At home you say on Tuesday evening next.
We trust it will not be: for that sweet home
you long have sought beyond the Jordan lies
Nor can you find one on this side of the stream
That final home you will reach indeed;
But we a few years more would hold you back
Your children how their hearts desire you stay
And all your friends and that church militant
You've loved so well and all this wretched world
Still need your prayers and labours.
In the land of Beulah may you linger yet a while
With the celestial city full in view
And heavenly visitants to bring you food
Till fully ripe for sinless scenes above
You pass so sweetly quietly way

You know not where Earth ends and heaven begins.

From E. & O. H. married May 31st 1821

On receiving a card of invitation to the golden wedding of Rev. Dr. and Mrs. Humphrey, saying that they will be at home Tuesday evening April 20th 1858

[On reverse]

Geo. L. Lynde

Letter 35

[EH to George Kendall, 23 February 1858, EOH, Series 2-B, Box 4, Folder 49]

To George Kendall Esq.

Sir,

At the request of B. D. Harris Esq. of New York, we spent a short time last December in examining the copper mine in Flemington New Jersey, to ascertain its geological situation and probable extent. So fully, however, has it been described in the reports of Professor Dickinson and Shepard, which we have read, that we hardly find anything to add.

As we expected, we found this mine near the western margin of that belt of sandstone and shale which is formed at intervals along the whole extent of our country from the south line of Vermont to North Carolina. In nearly its whole extent, and at regular intervals, this formation (whose geological position is not yet well settled, but which very probably may be found to fill up nearly all the interval between the chalk and the coal) is traversed by irregular outbursts of trap, and in several places copper shows itself at the junctions of these two rocks. By the protrusion of the trap, a kind of breccia, composed of trap and altered shale, was formed, and at Flemington the copper appeared to us to be mainly...

Page 2

...found in this rock. Of course we should expect it to be irregular in width and direction, conforming to the tortuosities along the line of junction of the two rocks, and leaving the observer in doubt whether to call the deposit a true vein or an irregular deposit. This it would seem is a quite common occurrence in copper mines, and does certainly detract somewhat from their value, and make it very difficult to predict with great confidence the quantity of ore in an unopened deposit. At Flemington appearances are such as seem to warrant the opinion that the quantity is large. We agree, therefore, with the gentleman whose reports have been referred to, and especially for the reason given by Prof. Shepard,

that it would be wise and judicious to reopen this mine, or rather to enlarge the operations already begun. And we cannot but feel that in addition to the circumstances of encouragement mentioned by these gentlemen, the fact that this mine is one of those points where copper shows itself along the line nearly a thousand miles in length is another. It looks as if along that line there must be a great deal of copper, and it would be strange if some of the spots where it reaches the surface are not prolific. We doubt whether scarcely any of them have yet been explored thoroughly enough to ascertain their true value.

Respectfully submitted
Edward Hitchcock
Geologist of Massachusetts and Vermont
Charles H Hitchcock
Assistant Geologist of Mass. and Vermont

Amherst College
February 23rd 1858

Letter 36

[EH to C. C. Carpenter, 23 May 1860, EOH, Series 2-B, Box 4, Folder 28]

Amherst College May 23rd 1860

Dear Sir,

Through Rev. Mr. Headley we received from you a present of a skin of the beautiful white arctic fox. We are very much indebted for it and shall stuff it put eyes into it and place it in our zoological cabinet with your name attached.

Should it be in your power to procure at a moderate expense a skeleton of one or more of the large arctic animals, such as the walrus, the narwhal, the white bear etc. for our cabinet and would forward them by some whaleship, we should be deeply indebted and would pay the expense wherever you should direct. Even if the bones...

Page 2

...were only partially clean they would answer. Any specimens of the rocks or the petrifications in them what you might send would be also very acceptable. We do not wish to have you encroach upon your special work for such objects: perhaps it will not interfere with that some times to get simple objects which in our museum would be highly instructive.

May God give you great success in your interesting work! Or at least give you health and strength to labour launch and faithfully in his service!

Most truly yours

Edward Hitchcock

Addressed to: Rev. C. C. Carpenter Missionary Labrador

Rev. Dr. Hitchcock 23 May 1860

Letter 37

[EH to Prof. Richard Owen, 4 July 1861, EOH, Series 2-B, Box 5, Folder 8]

Amherst Mass. July 4th 1861

Dear Sir,

I have reached one of those exigencies in scientific enquiry when I feel that your opinion on two or three points would be invaluable. And although I shrink from troubling again one whose hands are so full, and who has done much for me and mine, I venture to cast myself upon your generosity. I might indeed go to some of the distinguished comparative anatomists and zoologist of this country, and their opinion I should highly value. But yours, of all men living, I am most anxious to obtain.

You may be aware that some writers in my country have lately advanced the opinion that none of the fossil footmarks described in my ichnology were made by birds. It may turn out that such is the fact; but the arguments advanced to prove it, founded chiefly on certain facts about my *Anornipus* are by no means conclusive; for the hind feet of these animals were merely *Ornichoid*, whereas the tracks of the tridactyl thick-toed bipeds of my Ichnology seem to be truly Ornithic; as I have endeavored to show in a paper just published in the proceedings of the American Scientific Association for last year. I have there given the argument as you have so well stated it in your paleontology. That argument is all of us have stated it, is founded on the supposed fact that the number of phalangeal impressions in the tracks correspond with those of birds. No writer in...

Page 2

...this country has doubted it; but quite recently certain questions have arisen in my own mind on this point, which perplexed me, and it is upon these that I ask your opinion. If you will take the trouble to look into a few of the plates in my Ichnology I think I can make myself understood.

If you will look at plates X, XI, XII and XIII you will see that in all cases the posterior impression on the outer toe lies entirely farther back than that of the inner toe. Must not the former therefore have been made by the extremity of the tarsal or metatarsal bone? If so we shall have but three pharyngeal

impressions in the outer toe not reckoning that of the unequal phalange. And this is one less than in birds.

Another enquiry, however, has arisen; what part of an animal's toes is it that can make such distinct and rounded impressions in mud? Must it not be the articulation rather than the phalange? If so each impression is produced by the parts of two phalanges, and if we can suppose the posterior impression made in part by the tarsal bone, and in part by the first phalange, the second by the junction of the first and second, and so one we should get the same number as in birds. But can it be that the phalange of the outer toe has anything to do with the posterior impression, which is so entirely behind all the other ones? And how happens it that the distal impression on all the toes extends quite to the claws?

This last question has awakened other enquiries. May not the remarkably distinct impressions along the toes in some fossil footmarks have been made by a scalloped basil membrane rather than the phalanges as in the Sandpiper (Frenzi) the Grebe (Podiceps) and the Coot (Fulica) (see Ichnology plate VI, figure 6, and plate VII. figure 21.) But do the membranous expansions in any living animals correspond to the number of the phalanges? I have always been unfortunate and not having access without taking long journeys to large collections of birds or other animals. Can you who have such collections always at hand tell me whether there are any living animals whose toes would leave such distinct imprints apparently phalangeal as the plates of the Ichnology present.

[Reverse]

Letter to Prof. Richard Owen, July 1861

Letter 38

[EH to Henry Northrup, 17 July 1862, EOH, Series 2-B, Box 5, Folder 7]

Dr. Edward Hitchcock

Amherst College July 17th 1862

[Label glued on page]

Dr. Edward Hitchcock of Yale University

Rev. and dear Sir,

The Rev. H. D. Northrop was educated in this institution and I am happy to bear testimony to his character while here. He did not reside in my family as much as two years but was almost daily at my house.

There were two circumstances that gave some peculiarity to his collegiate course. One was his straitened circumstances which compelled him to be absent a good deal to provide the means of getting along. Another was an early development of his passion for writing and speaking which led him while in College often to go...

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...abroad to lecture upon political and moral subjects in which he had remarkable success. But all this was not favorable to distinction in classics and mathematics of which however he obtained knowledge enough to obtain the baccalaureate diploma; nor was any of his deficiency owing to the want of talents but simply to the causes above named. So when he left College, so popular had he become as a speaker and a preacher, that he could not wait to pass through the customary three years course of study and though by taking a shorter course to the ministry he somewhat disturbed the feelings of some conservatists, I could not see anything morally wrong in his course especially when he had already become very popular as a preacher and revivals attended his labours. It appeared to me to be one of those exceptional cases to which rules must give way. I know not that in any such instance he has taken any steps that throw doubts on his piety or was regarded as dishonorable. I think he has the disposition and the ability to be highly useful, especially among the common people; and if he goes to London I hope he may be very successful in winning men to Christ, though I could have wished he had been content to...

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...labour in his native land, where I am sure there is need enough for his services.

My oldest to whom you refer is now Professor of Hygiene and Physical Culture in this College, a department which though new in our College promises great usefulness. He speaks gratifyingly of your kind attentions to him, and desires to be kindly remembered to you.

Truly and sincerely yours

Edward Hitchcock

Letter 39

[EH to Henry Van Lennep, 12 May 1862, EOH, Series 2-B, Box 5, Folder 27]

Amherst May 12th 1862

Dear Sir,

Your box of specimens did not not reach me till a few days since. I have looked at its contents with much interest, and find that they will make a valuable addition to our collection. The "Bridal Pair" I think can be so placed that from there we can have the *lamp of knowledge*. The *local marble* is to me very interesting. It is *calcareous alabaster*, such as is mentioned in Scripture (Matthew 26:7). I take it to be a deposit from hot springs—I am anxious to know whether it is dug near Tocat—It is dug near Tabreer in Persia, and I have...

Page 2

...a specimen—a part of a jar – from the ruins of Nineveh. It was used by the Pasha of Egypt in building a palace a few years ago. But I have never heard of scarcely any other localities—nor do I know where the Pasha got it.

The fossil from the limestone near Armaria is of much interest. It undoubtedly belongs to the class Redistae, and that makes it certain that the formation is of the age of the chalk. It is probably a Hippolite, but the species is quite different from that on Mount Lebanon. The specimens are all broken, which may prevent the determination of the species.

I hope that the weather will soon be mild enough to allow you to visit Amherst. I suppose you know that you can now come all the way by railroad. Mrs. H and myself will be very glad to have you stop at our house and we will try to make you comfortable. Our scenery is beginning to put on its summer dress.

Most truly yours

Edward Hitchcock

Letter 40

[EH? to The Independent, undated, EOH, Series 2-B, Box 4, Folder 48]

For the Independent

Editors of the Independent,

In your brief allusion to Professor Hitchcock's article in the April number of the Bibliotheca entitled "The cross in nature and nature in the cross," you say that he "takes substantially the view given by Dr. Bushnell in his famous chapter on "Anticipative Consequences" in nature and the supernatural." This statement will doubtless be understood by your readers to imply that Professor H. derived his views from Dr. Bushnell's work. We feel a confidence that you will be willing to correct a conclusion so entirely contrary to the fact.

In the first place, Dr. Bushnell's work was published in 1858. Professor H. delivered his article as a lecture in Dr. Beman's church in Troy in the autumn of 1856, and in Dr. Wilk's Church in Montréal in

1857. Secondly, Professor H.'s views as to the adaptation of the world to a fallen being from the beginning, were first brought out by him in 1851, in his "Religion of Geology," when eight pages were devoted to that their defense. If similar views had been previously given by other writers, he was not aware of it. They may have been original with Dr. Bushnell: but his views were not brought before the public till many years after those of Prof. Hitchcock.

Letter 41

[EH to Eustaphius, 8 August 1815, EOH, Series 2-B, Box 4, Folder 34]

Deerfield August 8th 1815

Mmons??

Honored Sir,

I herewith send you a tragedy which I hope you will do me the honor to accept. I feel much diffidence in presenting to your inspection a piece written under so many disadvantages. And I should not do it did not my high opinion of the Russian character induce a belief that you will look rather at the motives rather than the execution with the mild eye of charity than at the execution with the stern eye of a judge. I know that it will appear presumptuous for a person like myself just past my teens, not assisted by a liberal education, unacquainted with the deep windings of the human character, who have scarcely seen a theatrical performance and of course know not how to touch those delicate things which will produce a good stage effect, and whom a locality of situation and a want of means prevent from obtaining an accurate knowledge of European politics, for such an one to attempt a tragedy on so difficult a subject may seem folly. I was not insensible to these objections; but my high admiration of the authors of those stupendous events which gave order and liberty to Europe could not permit me to be silent besides a misfortune with which I met (weakness of sight) gave me some degree of leisure, and the writing this piece was the only means left to me to remove the tedious incident to such a state. The impulse of my feelings and the amusement it afforded were the only motives that prompted me to write. The reasons for publishing or some of them of such a nature as cannot be here mentioned: but I can say that I am willing to bear many a critic's sneer however just if the world will give??? evidence as it undoubtedly will, of my deep hostility to the former tyrant of Europe and of my high admiration of his deliverers. For I conceive it to be every honorable man's duty to declare such enmity and admiration not only to his friends but to the world.

These were the embarrassments and feelings in which I have laboured, and with these prepared I fear not to commit my piece to the mercy of a Russian.

Permit me sir, most cordially to congratulate you on the second apparent Emancipation of Europe. May the ~~troubles of the world be~~ no voice of mercy no more prevail over the voice of justice but may the troubles of the world now meet that fate which the blood of millions demands. A second plot is now laid for a tragedy. So rapid have been the events that the critics would scarcely be violated and should Napoleon be executed the catastrophe would be complete. With what pleasure would the public receive a play on this subject from your pen!

With sentiments of the highest respect I am sir

Your humble servant

E. H.

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Addressed to:

Alexis Eustaphieve
Russian Consul
Boston

Letter 42

[Eustaphius to EH, 22 August 1815, EOH, Series 2-A, Box 3, Folder 11]

Boston August 22, 1815

Sir,

Your tragedy was delivered into my hands by the friend to whose care it was entrusted. For the handsome manner in which you have accompanied its offer as well as for the offer itself, and the gratification and I experienced in perusing the piece, I offer you my sincere thanks and acknowledgments. I also congratulate you on the successful effort which in various parts of the drama are too obvious to be overlooked. At the same time I regret the distance which separates us, as I have much to say upon the subject more than I could possibly commit to paper. Believe me I have no advantage over you, except what can reasonably be expected from longer experience. The beauties which display...

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...themselves throughout the whole are of the first order, emanating from the true inspiration of genius, and glorying with all the ardour of youth. They are all your own, and can never be alienated. The defects, on the contrary, are such as you have yourself anticipated. They are placed without you and can be easily removed with the external cause which produced them. They came sometimes from a young too exuberant fancy which is a good fault, but generally they proceed from the subject itself. Great and at the same time familiar events, passing as it were before our eyes, not overshadowed by the mysterious veil of ambiguity, and precluding every political deviation from historical facts, are the most difficult, ungracious and unsuitable subjects for drama, that can possibly be selected. Even the names, let them be ever so harmonious, if they are erroneously used, add in no small degree to the difficulty, as you may easily perceive from the manner in which the names of Bonaparte [Bounparte?], Kurtuyou, [Kutusov?] and Talleyrand, wherever they arrive, impair the dignity of blank verse. And then I can say on this side the question, is that you have been unfortunate in the choice of your subject. Your bold genius has however extricated you so far as to command great respect and interest from the reader. I should have completely fallen under the same weight. My first opinion is that under any other title but the

present, as a mere poem in fragments, not offered to the tragic muse it would make an excellent composition, dismembered from all those objections which I have taken the liberty of suggesting. There are some few further alterations that I think would much improve it, and above all, the technical terms, whether auxiliary or belonging to other branches of arts and sciences, must entirely be excluded. No taste...

Page 3

...can for a moment tolerate them. In your piece besides the general objection they have the very curious appearance of of foreign words as they really are, and therefore can not be entitled even to the indulgence of sea phrases, as introduced by Falconer [Universal Dictionary of the Marine 1815], which are of true English extraction. If ever you should visit Boston, I shall be truly happy to see you, and embrace that opportunity of expressing myself more at large upon what I consider as improvements to your production. I have shown it to some friends, and I am happy to inform you they have singled out and admired all those beauties first struck me.

Addressed to: Mr. Edward Hitchcock, Deerfield

Return address: Alexis Eustaphieue

Letter 43

[Epaphras Hoyt to Pierce, 20 January 1815, EOH, Series 2-A, Box 3, Folder 22]

Deerfield January 20, 1815

Dear Sir

I take the liberty to introduce to you, the bearer, Mr. Edward Hitchcock, a son of Deacon Hitchcock of this town. He is the young man my Brother Elihu sometime since mentioned to you. Considering the advantages he has had we consider him to have made much progress in scientific knowledge. He has published two almanacks fitted to the Latitude and Longitude of this town and I think he may be ranked as a pretty good astronomer for the country. He has made several communications to Professor Farren of your College, on philosophical subjects. Any assistance you may think proper to afford him by making him known to respectable gentlemen will be thankfully noticed by his numerous friends here, and particularly by your Sincere friend and humble servant

E. Hoyt

PS. Mr. Hitchcock would be much gratified by viewing the philosophical apparatus in the college. I know not whether he can receive this favour. If inconsistent with the rules of the College, I would not urge it.

Reverse

Addressed to: Proctor Pierce Esq., Cambridge

[Proctor Peirce graduated from Dartmouth in 1796, from Harvard in 1814, taught at Dartmouth]

Letter 44

[John Webster to EH, 30 August 1825, EOH, Series 2-A, Box 4, Folder 10]

Cambridge Aug. 30—25

My Dear Sir

I congratulate you on your appointment, and in consequence of seeing the announcement of it in the papers, now send you as I have done to others, a sheet of an edition of Brandes Chemistry I talk of preparing for use as a textbook. I propose to omit all his Mineralogy and Geology and refer for it to Cleaveland all the Electricity (except a few very general principles) and refer to Mr. Farrand's new book on Mechanical Philosophy.

I do not know what text book has been used at Amherst. I intend to add to my author further illustrations on the various topics from all the best and latest writers in their own language, referring at the end to the vol. and page. As however it is not worth while to be at the expense of \$1000 for the yearly consumption of such a book here, I wish to get the opinion of other gentlemen as to the probability of its being...

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...used as a textbook in other colleges and have had a sheet struck up for them to compare it with Macneven's Brande and thus better judge of my plan.

I shall not go any further till I hear from those I have sent, and hope you will write me as soon as you can get time. Yr letter came too late for the Journal, but it serves to confirm my conjecture as to the chlorophoeite. [Hitchcock's paper Chlorophoeite and Andalusite appeared in AJS in 1826]

Yours with esteem

JWW [In pencil: J. W. Webster]

Addressed to: Revd. Mr. Hitchcock, Conway, Massts.

Return address: Cambridge Mass. August 31st

[Hitchcock used Webster's Manual of Chemistry in his courses from 1826 to 1833; he also wrote a review of Webster's book in North American Review 1826.]

Letter 45

[J. S. Rogers to EH, 14 July 1827, EOH, Series 2-A, Box 3, Folder 33]

New York July 14th 1827

Revd. E. Hitchcock

So long a period has elapsed my dear Sir since I had the pleasure to receive your last letter, that I fear you must have felt disposed to accuse me of negligence in not returning an answer to it; but my peculiar situation for the last year, added to professional engagements, and for a good portion? of the time indifferent health,—have not only disordered me greatly -

[Piece of the letter cut out]

...box of our choicest specimens, was packed for you at West Point, but that it has in some considerable way, miscarried: we have made every excursion to recover it, but in vain: I therefore send you the next best box of finds which were simultaneously prepared: you will find that some of the minerals are labeled; others only numbered; a list of the latter accompanies this letter. The box...

Page 2

I shall forward, as on former occasions, to Professor F. Hall of Hartford; I would ask you to give me your reply, your address more particularly than I now know it. We are very much in want of domestic duplicates, and I therefore ask you to send us as large a number as you conveniently can, and it is purely out of date. You'll find in the present packing's package many interesting and at as early a date. You will find in the present package many interesting and valuable mineral minerals and I have no doubt will be pleased with the remise. I should be desirous to have all the specimens you said were forwarded, and not exceeding in general, three or four inches square.

Begging to hear from you as soon as your time will permit,

I am dear Sir

[Missing section]

List of the unlabeled minerals in the box sent to the Revd. E. Hitchcock July 14th 1827—

5. Wax-opal (Val. Senni Opal in German Wachs-opal) Barongarten
12. Chromate of iron. Grahberge, near Frankenstein
19. Graphic granite – Langen – Brelan—near Recherbachs

- 27. Almond quartz (Mandel quartz) Kissmandorff, near Strahlen
- 35. Blue Opal—Baumgarter
- 63. Talc in Serpentine. Flummerbgerges near Frankenstein
- 65. Magenta (with chalcedony?) (Baumgarter)
- 71. Chrysoprase
- 79. Chalcedony paging into Chrysoprase
- 85. Grey Quartz – Langen Brelau
- 102. Epidote in enigma crystals Friedelberg
- 106. Albite—Schwarznspic
- 115. German Quartz, rich in veins Weidenan
- 137. 141. Hyalite—Sondammuhle
- 154. Compact pyritic iron—Reichenhad
- 174. Red Galmic Rainerc Germ.
- 181. Steatite—Reichenstadt
- 210. Calc-sinter Bannoun strata
- 221. Calc spar An Irasburg
- 233. Carb. Of iron—Clausestradt
- 251. Petrifications – Sondona Montmartre
- 257. Selenite, petit Cons
- 261. Silex, rock calcareous Sulph of lime—Montmartre
- 265. Flaky quartz—Saint Ocan's near Paris
- 305. Mercuric Cinnabar. Inria – Carniola Germany
- 308. Quicksilver: Live-ore (Leiber –eng)
- 327. Warelite – Czerawitz—Germany

Addressed to The Revd. Edward Hitchcock, Amherst, Massachusetts

(Another address is scratched out, looks like someone in Hartford, CT)

Return address:

Prof. J. S. Rogers, July 14 -27

Letter 46

[George White to EH, 9 April 1828, EOH, Series 2-A, Box 4, Folder 12]

Wethersfield Con April 9, 1828

My Dear Sir,

I have attended your errand in Hartford as you requested, and now will send you the result. The two steamboats which ran last summer—viz. Oliver Ellsworth and MacDonough, were both absent, but the agent of the company – Mssrs. Chapin and Northam—assured me that the views should be put up as requested, if you would send them. I likewise saw the Steward of the steam schooner at Amazon (a new boat) and he said there would be no doubt that the captain would put one up with pleasure. Mr. Morgan put up the one you sent me, as requested. As the boats are not at Hartford at all times it will probably be best for you to send the views to the agents of the S. Boat Company. Horatio and Alden and Co. are agents for the Amazon, Chapin and Northam for the O. Ellsworth and MacDonough.

My objections to visiting do not extend so far as to hinder me from doing business. I shall be always ready for that, and find no difficulty in doing my errand...

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...when I have one, at any rate I do not with men. But I can not go without any object in view, except the dry formality of making a visit, into a company of ladies, and not make wise remarks on the weather, the singularity of the season, on the prospect of Gen. Jackson for the President, etc. I never could, and I do not expect that I ever shall, be able to bring myself, either to enjoy or even to endure “such vain imaginations.”

Yesterday I had an opportunity for visiting the Retreat for the insane at Hartford, and was very highly gratified. It is a fine Institution. Seven were discharged cured the last month. The present minister of patients is 31. The ratio of cures, to patients admitted, has been during the last year as high as 95 per cent. The Retreat is in an excellent state of management, in every department, Dr. Todd who is at the head of it is exceedingly well fitted for the station.

The State Prison here is likewise in a very excellent condition. The plan of its government is very much like that of the Auburn Prison. It has all its advantages, and remedies some of its defects. Whipping and all corporal punishment are forbidden and the convicts are ruled as men every where else are, by persuasion, and kind treatment. At least the plan is founded on this ground. Solitary confinements, keeping the convict in his cell during the day, has been occasionally necessary for the “freshmen.” They appear as a body to very good advantage. I am sure I have never seen mechanical shops where the laborers were near so orderly, and industrious. At present the profit of the convicts labor, exceeds the expences of the prison. The order of their daily duties are as follows – they are let out from their cells (where they have remained singly during the night) apparently early in the morning and work in the shop till about 7. They are then marched into the Prison whence they stand in a body while the ??? reads a chapter in the Bible and makes a prayer, they are then ordered to their cells – in which their breakfast has been placed and locked up an hour – then marched to the shops and work till about 12 – then to their cells, and dinner on hour – then at one to the shops till 5— when they march again into the

prison – a chapter is read – prayers attended and sometimes remarks made by the Warden or other person – then sent to their supper in the cells – and remain there for the night. There has been something of a revival in the Prison during the week, and last week 25 dollars were sent to the Bible society, and 10 or 12 to the tract society, from the Prisoners!!!

Please give my love to the family – I shall be pleased to hear from you as often as is convenient, meanwhile I remain your sincere servant,

G. White

Envelope: Professor Edward Hitchcock, Amherst, Mass.

Return address: Wethersfield, Ct April 9

Dr. G. White

Letter 47

[James Deane to EH, 20 March 1834, EOH, Series 2-A, Box OS1, Folder 12]

[A copy in Edward's hand]

Letter from Dr. Deane

Greenfield 20 March 1834 [5?]

Prof. Hitchcock, Dear Sir,

I received your letter this morning which excites my curiosity more than ever relating to those tracks. I have reviewed them anew and find a part of a third track of one of the birds where the slab is broken off. In my mind there is no doubt but they are real impressions of the foot of some bird probably of the turkey species. I am told that there are more tracks to be seen in the lot which I suppose to be a continuation of the line. This fact would be a strong argument against these appearances being formed from accidental circumstances. On examining the opposite side of the slab I find that the weight of the bird did perceptibly elevate that portion opposite to the tracks. This happens to them all. On the whole I cannot help thinking that these impressions are genuine and if so they provide an interesting subject for the geologist. I shall take care to secure them for your observation.

Letter 48

[James Deane to EH, 20 March (or May?) 18[34], EOH, Series 2-A, Box 3 Folder 9]

Greenfield 20 March [or May?] 1832 [Probably 1842]

Prof. Hitchcock

Dear Sir,

I have dashed off in a hasty manner a drawing of a track on the other side in Indian ink, to see how this style of shading is calculated to illustrate these impressions: I have not attempted accuracy nor finish, yet I think beautiful representations may be made in this way.

If your leisure will permit I will thank you to send to me casts of *O. Tuberosa* in your possession, or loan me the originals for a short time for I am anxious to make an accurate drawing of this fine track. There is but one perfect claw on two specimens in my possession—I wish to restore every part, and with both mine and yours I can restore them all. I intend to make drawings of all new varieties and append them to your plates.

If an accurate drawing of the specimen is in my possession will be of any service to you in preparing your

paper for Silliman's Journal, I will make it with great pleasure—but I hope you will not take this one as an example of shading or of prints for I executed it in a very rapid manner.

Yours respectfully

James Deane

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[Illustration of track]

Letter 49

[EH to Deane, 10 November 1844, EOH, Series 2-A, Box 4 Folder 30]

Amherst November 10, 1844

Dear Sir,

By mistake the proof of your Surrejoinder in the Am. Journal of Science [AJS v. 47, no. 2, pp. 399-401] was not sent to me and it is only lately that I have seen it. I regret it not because I should have given any further reply in the journal: but I should have made some private statements to you which I feel confident would have led you to modify some of your suggestions. And since I wish to narrow as much as possible the difference between us I have thought it but to make some of these statements even now. I refer particularly to your insinuation that I received a compensation for my investigation of the footmarks from the government of Massachusetts. Now this was not the case except to a limited extent near the close of the time. My first commission for a geological survey of Mass. expired in 1833 and my second commission was not received till late in the summer of 1837 and during that autumn I was occupied nearly the whole time in collecting soils. For three summers therefore during which my most laborious examinations of the tracks were made I did it on my own expense. And in the two subsequent years I did not do as much on this subject at the expense of government as I now think should have been done. And besides I received nothing for a set of casts which I put into the state collection.

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The editors of the Journal of Science have offered to state the above facts in their own language. But I do not wish to trouble the public any farther on the subject and had rather bear the reproach which will result from your statement especially as it appears to me to have no bearing upon the points in dispute between us.

You complain of my “covert interference with your personal concerns.” I have nothing but conjecture to guide me in ascertaining to what you here refer and should you let me know what it is as I am not conscious of any such interference very possibly I might satisfy you that I am innocent of the charge.

Respectfully yours

Edward Hitchcock

Letter 50

[EH to Deane, 15 March 1835, EOH, Series 2-B, Box 5, Folder 16]

[This letter is one of three (50, 53, and 54) copied by EH and sent to Benjamin Silliman, all originally dated 1835].

[In Edward’s hand in a letter to B. Silliman]

Copy of letter to Dr. Deane in reply to his one respecting the fossil footmarks

Amherst March 15th 1835

Dear Sir,

It would be a most interesting fact if the suggestions you make as to the impressions on sandstone should prove true. For I recollect but a single similar fact in geology: and that is the track of a tortoise on the sandstone of Scotland described in the American Journal of Science a few years ago. I am not without strong suspicion however that the case you mention may be a very peculiar structure of certain spots in the sandstone which I have often seen in a red variety of that rock. [Asterisk] The layers of rock having this structure sometimes present an appearance resembling the foot of a bird. But I am satisfied that it is not the result of organization though I confess myself unable to say precisely from what principle it has resulted. But perhaps the case you mention is not of this sort: I should be quite glad to see these...

* The true origin of these appearances I have not yet seen given— October 1843 E. N. I refer to No. 1793 of the state collection of the State Collection and of mine in Amherst College.

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...specimens if you can prevent their being defaced for a month or two until I shall visit Greenfield I shall be much obliged to you.

Accept my thanks for your trouble and believe me respectfully and sincerely yours.

E. Hitchcock

Letter 51

[James Deane to EH, March 1835, from *Ichnology of New England*, p. 192]

" In the slabs of sandstone from Connecticut River in Montague or Sunderland, lately brought here, I have obtained singular appearances, new to me, although I presume not to yourself. One of them is distinctly marked with the tracks of a turkey (as I believe) in relief. There were two of the birds side by side making strides of about two feet.

" I was anxious to see the die from which these impressions were struck, and it has now arrived. The tracks, four in number, are perfect, and must have been made when the materials were in a plastic state, and at what period I leave you to tell. I am no geologist, but yet I know that geologists derive much satisfaction from contemplating these remains. I do not know but they may be familiar to you; but if you desire it, I will endeavor to prevent their being converted to the use for which they were brought here."

Letter 52

[James Deane to EH, 9 September 1845, EOH, Series 2-A, Box 3 Folder 9]

Greenfield Sept. 9 1845

Dear Sir,

It is probable that I shall forward my large slabs to Cambridge next week on Tuesday, in which case they will be boxed up rather sooner.

I make this communication as you have expressed a desire to study them particularly. If it is agreeable I think you had better see them as soon as Friday or Saturday. The various impressions upon these fine slabs lead to conclusions of profound interest and are well entitled to a thorough examination. I shall be very happy to facilitate your investigations.

Yours respectfully,

J. Deane

Addressed to Edward Hitchcock, L.L.D., Amherst, Massachusetts

Return address: Dr. Deane

Postmark: Greenfield, Ms. Sep 1

Letter 53

[EH to Deane, 2 September 1835, EOH, Series 2-B, Box 5 Folder 16]

Extract of another letter dated September 2nd 1835

Dear Sir,

Yours of the 17th instant is received and I am obliged to you for its contents. I think your views to be quite correct as to the tracks: but it will require decided evidence to convince geologist because it places birds so much lower in the rocks than they have heretofore been discovered. Hence I feel anxious to get a full view of the case before describing it etc.

Letter 54

[EH to Deane, 15 September 1835, EOH, Series 2-B, Box 5, Folder 16]

Extract from another dated September 15, 1835

I hope to get ready a paper on the subject for the January No. of Silliman's Journal of Science in which I shall not fail to acknowledge my indebtedness to you for the first discovery. I wish to make a thorough examination before committing myself in public: for from the nature of the case I know that geologists will try all they can to disbelieve the facts.

Letter 55

[Deane to EH, 10 September 1846, EOH, Series 2-A, Box 3 Folder 9]

Greenfield September 10, 1846

Dear Sir,

May I ask if by any chance my third letter to you written in 1835 on the subject of Footmarks has yet come to light? I am exceedingly anxious to receive the document or copy of it, and I trust if you should find it you will comply with my request to see it. It would then be easy to show precisely how far the discovery of footmarks was due to my agency.

I have observed two or three new varieties of the footprints of birds during the last year and Martin and Mr. Marsh has one of quadruped, specifically distinct from any thing hitherto seen. I have perhaps noticed it in Mr. Silliman's forward.

Yours respectfully

James Deane

Addressed to Professor Hitchcock L.L.D., Amherst Mass.

Return address: Dr. J. Deane Box 82

Postmark: Greenfield April 21

Letter 56

[Henry Van Lennep to EH, 31 December 1841, EOH, Series 2-A, Box 4, Folder 9]

Prof. Edward Hitchcock

Smyrna December 31, 1841

My dear Sir

Your kind and interesting letter of February 28 reached me when traveling in Roomelia; and it was impossible for me then either to answer it or to attend to the request therein contained.

As soon as I arrived here, however, I wrote to Dr. Sherman of Beyroot requesting the specimens of wine you desired, intending to add to them the wines of Samos, Cyprus, and Smyrna and to accompany them with a letter. They have not yet appeared, however, owing to the infrequency of communication with Syria since the close of the war. Having some objects of curiosity to forward in the meanwhile, I take the opportunity thereby afforded returning you my thanks for the volume on Geology which you had the goodness to send me. I find it invaluable for beginners, and doubt not others must find it so.

I hope you have received a box of minerals of which you said in your letter that it has not yet appeared. I now forward one containing some birds peculiar to this country of which I subjoin the list. These come from the coast of Troy principally. They have been put up in the manner which best fits them for transportation. They can be set with wires and stuffed with little trouble, if care be taken first to soften the skin inwardly. Could you spare any of them, they might be placed in the Cabinet of the N. L. D. in my name. As the flamingo is a rare bird in America and there are four in the box, one might be given to Mr. Samuel...

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...Worcester of Salem for the Museum in that city.

I shall also endeavor to send you a box of mineralogical specimens principally from Brooda. I discovered there a most splendid collection of several varieties of limestone crystal, in secondary limestone, produced by the infiltration of water. An immense bank of Mount Olympus is covered with them, and as large blocks of the perpendicular rock have fallen from time to time they have laid open a great number of little caves, lined with stalactites, stalagmites, and clusters of various forms of calcareous crystals. I have succeeded in bringing some very large pieces, too beautiful to be broken. One of them especially seems to have been devised by an artist; it has a smooth round place for the reception of a watch; all around are clustered the beautiful crystals; and above several delicate stalactites stand out as if to receive the watch chain.

My tour extended both in Asia and in Europe; and I have seen many spots which would make me think of you. Never have I been so much strengthened in the belief of the great outlines of geology. I have formed a general idea of the geology of those countries in a manner I can express to you in a few words. From the chain of the Olympus to the Great Balkans in Roomalia, there is a regular series of rocks. The

Marmoca produces no charges nor any difficulty in the study of the grounds, especially as the Princes Islands continue the gradation of the series. Could the other islands also be visited, they would throw great light on the subject.

Mt. Olympus is composed of Gneiss. The chain of the Olympus advanced from the Eastward, rises to its loftiest summit and stops suddenly short. The stratified rocks it has replaced form a gradual shape which extend a mile or 2 beyond Brooda, westward. I have noticed on the flat surface which forms nearly the summit of the mountains, rounded stones in places, varying in size but frequently 15 feet in every direction, presenting very much the appearance of the irregularities on the surface of a boiling fluid: as if they had been arrested in their position by very sudden contact with the cold air.

The rocks, which slope down from Olympus to the plain, are in the following order of arrangement;

[Illustration, a cross-section with labels]

The chain runs east and west. Immediately north of it lie, generally, rich alluvial plains. They are sometimes interrupted by limestone hills. Beyond the plains are again hills of the same limestone. Farther on, towards Gheralite, the ancient Kios, are hills of argillaceous slate, containing much lime, which make an excellent soil for wheat. Towards the lake of Aui, there are hills of porphyritic trap with some columnar formations.

I have never been in the Princes Islands [near Istanbul], but from a short distance, a very large view is seen on the largest of them; it appears like the earliest red sandstone, and it can be traced some distance on the adjoining continent (Asia) in a line about parallel with the Olympic chain.

At Const'ple and on the western side of the Marmara, the general rock is secondary limestone, made of different kinds of shells, some bivalve, some univalve. The rocks of another character are as far as I know of volcanic origin or trap rock. The whale of Roomilis is thus as far as I have been....

Page 3 or four

Present my kindest regards to your family and many friends in Amherst or elsewhere if you meet any. I pray you all to remember us at the throne of grace, as I doubt not you do. We fight a great and difficult warfare here; and unless God can be persuaded, if I may so speak, to take the part of his people, and bless their labors, it is a [????] in vain that we toil.

Wishing you every blessing for the year we are about entering. I remain,

Your most sincere friends

Henry J. Van Lennep

Page

Envelope addressed to Professor Edward Hitchcock, Amherst Mass. Scratched out: Care of R. Rufus Anderson, D.D., Missionary House, Pemberton Square, Boston, Mass.

[Beneath lower fold]

Birds in the box sent care of Henry Hill, Esq.
Number 1 Pemberton Square (Missionary House, Boston)

The genera according to Ballou are:

4 Phoenicopterus [? Phoenicircus? Phoeniculus? Phoenicurus?]
2 Micronisus[?]
1 Nisus
1 Coccothraustes
4 Garrulus
1 Platalea
1 Vanellus
1 Pteritopus
1 small sweet water Onocratulus
2 1 wild boar's tusk
In all 17 articles

The box is directed to be left at the Missionary House until called for.

Letter 57

[Henry Van Lennep to EH, 20 September 1842, EOH, Series 2-A, Box 4, Folder 9]

Prof. Edw. Hitchcock Amherst College

Smyrna September 20, 1842

Dear Sir

I have been a great while in fulfilling your commission for specimens of wines from the Levant; and I am quite mortified to think it is so long ago that you wrote me about it. I have met with a good deal of difficulty in obtaining specimens from Syria, and Palestine, or rather in making them arrive here. For what with quarantine regulations, the delays of vessels, etc., etc., it is now more than a year I think since I wrote to some of the brethren in Beyroot and Jerusalem on the subject. I could have sent you those from Cyprus, Rhodes, Samos, and Smyrna immediately, since they always found for sub here; but I thought the assortment would not be complete.

I now forward to Boston by Bark Chutan to your address care of Revd. Rufus Anderson DD Missionary House Number 1 Pemberton Square, Boston, a box containing the following:

One bottle of wine from Mount Lebanon 1 year old
One bottle of wine from Lebanon 6 years old
Two bottles of wine from Mount Hebron age unknown
One bottle of wine from Corfu age unknown
One bottle of wine from Syria place and age unknown
One bottle of wine from Cyprus, not old
One bottle of wine from Samos, not old

Page 2

One bottle of wine from Rhodes, 1 year old
One bottle of wine from Smyrna, new that is about a year old

In all 10 bottles. I hope the customs house officer will not open the box, and I shall therefore write the contents on the outside. But with all the precautions I have taken, I should not be surprised should they all or many reach you soured. Then instead of your laboratory they will take their place in your storeroom and whenever you have salad on your table you put on the vinegar to my health: a dour health to be sure!

I have lately been busy in writing down my geological observations in a tour through the most interesting parts of Greece. I have adopted your plan of sections and have made all the road I travelled a continued section from the moment I started to my return. Spots I have visited which were exceedingly interesting and I have often wished that some good geologist might spend a long time in the study of Greece. Indeed I learned in Athens that a German had made a tour through every part of the country with a scientific, principally a geological object in view. But he had already left for Germany, and he has not yet published any of his results. Mr. Pindienis, who is writing a volume on Greece, desired me to send him a copy of my Geological observations, for an Appendix. I have a great horror to the idea of authorship, even in the most unpretending manner; I shall tell him so. And I will request him, if practicable, to show you the little I have written, that you may put your vets to it if you find any very

blundering mistakes in it.

I believe I already mentioned to you the existence of a highly interesting tract of country on the north of the island of Rhodes which I visited last winter. In two or three rambles I picked up about 75 different species of petrified shells or mollusks without taking any very special pains. I have a great desire to visit that Island once more. I had planned a journey along the southern coast of Asia Minor from Macis to Satalia, for the purpose of ascertaining the spiritual wants of the people, distributing books among them, and of establishing some schools. It was not an uninteresting fact to rue, that I should the volcanic regions of Syria and examine the highly interesting part containing animal deposits. But the station has decided that some of us should make a new journey this year. The state of the Board's friends compels us to restrict our views to our present occupations, though with but little increase of funds, we might greatly increase our usefulness. So I must give up my plan; which I do very reluctantly I assure you, although journeying here is both dangerous and trying to the strength and constitution.

I am very desirous to hear of your discoveries and labours. I hope your health permits you to spend much time in them. How elevating they are, how intimately connected with the study of that Being whose knowledge and study constitute the only real happiness of poor, feeble man!

Much love to yours, and all our common friends

And believe me

Yours

Henry J. Van Lennep

Addressed to Professor Edward Hitchcock, Amherst College, Amherst, Mass.
Return address: is H. J. Van Lennep

Letter 58

[Henry Van Lennep to EH, 5 February 1849, EOH, Series 2-A, Box 4, Folder 9]

Revd. E. Hitchcock DD Amherst

Bebek near Const'ple, Feb. 5, 1849

Revd. and dear Sir,

Your very kind letter of April 28 did not reach me till sometime in August; and I must before answering it very particularly give you the reasons of my long silence.

You very kindly call spoke of a contribution made among the students in the college towards the purchase of a telescope of which I have spoken to you. I first waited for a long time for notification to the same effect from the treasurer of our board, which however did not come. You very kindly stated in your letter that you hoped to do something more; and as the sum already spoken of was inadequate to the object in view, I waited still further to see whether any thing more was forthcoming. I have now lost all hope of hearing either from Mr. Hill or from yourself again on the subject; and one object in writing is to ask whether it would be in accordance with the wishes of the contributors to have the sum employed in some other manner equally useful to the seminary and the cause of learning in this country; for as I said above the sum contributed is not sufficient to cover the cost of the telescope, and I have no heart to ask our board for the remainder. The debt which lies heavily upon them, or I might rather upon us (for we missionaries completely identify around with the Board) is the obvious reason. We are indeed all...

Page 2

...of us willing to do all we can towards greater economy; indeed I have all along been ready to ask you to allow the \$80 contributed toward the telescope to go into the general fund of the board and say nothing about it to Mr. Hill, seeing it had escaped him. And I would now leave it entirely to your own sense of what would most accord with the desires of the contributors and the necessities of the case to decide which course to pursue. I shall not write to Mr. Hill on the subject, certainly not until I hear again from you.

You must not think that I feel anything like discouragement respecting our beloved seminary. God occasionally allows clouds to gather around our prospect, but it is always in love. This is not the first trial our beloved Board has met with; but by faith in God's provides we will surmount them all. And as for our Seminary, I feel it is more useful now than it ever was before, and its prospects are brightening every day. One of its students stands at this moment as a candidate for the Ministry, and is to be examined for licensure next Friday. This makes the fourth regularly ordained preacher of the Gospel which our seminary has furnished, beside schoolmasters, translators, colporteurs, etc., who are now actually engaged in disseminating the truth. Halshadoor, the name of the new candidate, is far more advanced in knowledge than any who have yet gone from these walls. His requirements in Greek and in theology are equal, I presume, to those of the majority of the graduates of our Seminary in the beginning of the public career. With a strong desire to raise the Standard of Ministerial attainments as high as possible, we have been hindered by the pressing necessities of the field; for I could name at least 10 places for which it would be highly desirable that a regularly ordained minister should be sent, and where we should send them immediately if we had them, and they would be able to organize a church or be settled over churches already existing but as flocks without a shepherd. Still our native Ministry are making an evident outward progress in intellectual and literary qualifications; and what is vastly more important they are all new of men of faith, prayer, and self denial, wholly devoted to their Master's work, and having good report both from the churches and from them that are without. They are all of them vastly superior in every respect to the native old Armenian clergy, and excepting the highest dignitaries and the learned men; and besides they have the immense advantage of defending what all acknowledge to be the truth, all their adversaries, almost to a man, are conscious they are defending a

system that will stand the close scrutiny neither of reason nor of Scripture.

The prospects of our mission were never so bright as at the present moment. The past year was one of external peace; but God allowed some stumbling blocks to be placed in the way of his people that they might lead to look to him alone for strength. In almost all our churches there have been some refractory members; two or three have been excommunicated, but the effect seems to have been highly beneficial to the rest, and there seemed a spirit of prayer, and love for the brethren and for the souls of perishing men, to be pervading our native brethren generally.

Next page

We long for and entertain strong hopes that this year will be one of the outpouring of God's Spirit to the conversion of many. The circumstances of the church in this city have very materially altered since the time immediately succeeding the great persecution. They were then completely compelled to collect in Pera and Galata and were almost entirely cut off from the mass of their nation. They have now returned to their former abodes, and have scattered in every part of the city. They are thus brought into contact with their people, while they are yet distinct and as a city set upon a while. The number of church members has also increased, and we are about to form the one church of Constantinople into three distinct churches, so rather the present church is about to send off to district colonies. This will increase their influence as we trust, though it will greatly increase our labor also; but the Lord will provide, and blest be his name for allowing us to do any work in His service.

I rejoice at the answer which my appeal to my Alma Mater produced on account of the proof it afforded me of sympathy among her beloved students. I cannot tell you how my heart clings to that dear spot, and how much I love its teachers, pupils, all, though strangers to me. I beg you would express these sentiments to them in better language than I can you; tell them to remember the vast concerns which they will soon be permitted to aid in deciding. And if any of them think of the Missionary work, tell him that there is no work like it for whosoever loves his Master and lives for Eternity; and that its joys are the richest earth knows and its trials are almost as precious. With the kindest regards to your family and especially my highest respect and warm affection for yourself.

I remain Yours sincerely

Henry J. Van Lennep

Addressed to: Revd. Edward Hitchcock DD,
President etc. etc.
Amherst Mass.

Return address: United States of America Reverend H Van Lennep

Postmark: New York March 28

Letter 59

[Van Lennep to EH, 17 October 1839, EOH, Series 2-A, Box 4, Folder 9]

West Springfield October 17th 1839

My very dear Sir

Yours came to hand by Mr. Bliss; and in compliance with your request I send you all I have in the way of sketches, bad, badder, and baddest; fearing but I should not be able to do any thing more. I have finished lately but two with pencil; and I think a skillful artist might do something pretty with them. The Rock ferry can be made pretty good; cynical but I intended to have copied it on a larger sheets, and done it with the pencil. Many of my sketches are truly pencilings; I should not send them but for your special request. Whether you can distinguish any thing from them, I cannot tell, but I think it more than doubtful.

It is needless to say that should any of my efforts see the public's unpleasant glare, it would be at least as well that they should go on their own responsibility and that of the editor, and not have my name appended. If they are good, an unknown name cannot better their reputation; if they are bad, I should not like to bear this burden.

I am very grateful for the kind expressions of your letter, and you allow me here, as far as the necessarily rapid motion of an ugly pen will permit, to express to you the warm gratitude and attachment you have excited in my heart. I hope you allow me over ever to regard and to call you one of my best and most respected friends in the land of my pilgrimage.

With much regard for your family,

I remain yours etc.

Henry Van Lennep

Address: Revd. Edward Hitchcock, Amherst College, Amherst Mass.

Return address: H. J. Van Lennep

By M. E. Bliss

Letter 60

[Van Lennep to EH, 2 February 1843, EOH, Series 2-A, Box 4, Folder 9]

Revd. Prof. Edward Hitchcock

Smyrna Feb. 2, 1843

Dear Sir,

Yours of Nov. 7th came to hand by the Reverend Mr. Powers who was welcome not only as an old friend, but also as having seen you recently, and bringing news from several of my friends. I was rejoiced to receive also your great work on the Geology of Massachusetts; as well as the copy of a discourse to the Geological Society at Philadelphia. I am grateful to you for remembering that there is one of your friends 7000 miles off who takes the deepest interest in the science, and who would deem himself happy could he add his mite to the contributions which are made to it by so many men of merit.

And first you will allow me to speak of your recent work. I have been able thus far only to look it over a little and I have formed a very high opinion of it. I believe that the economical part of it, is quite a new feature, and will probably imitated as far as geological surveys are being carried. Of the designs illustrating the scenery of the state, I can only say that my contribution to it was very poor; were I to begin again I think I could succeed better, by means of the experience I have obtained in this country, which is remarkable for the beauty and the picturesque appearance of the country. The woodcuts are generally done as well as such things are done. Some of the lithographies...

Page 2

...are quite good; but one or two of them excited my mirth, though I presume that their defects originated as much in the original artist as in those that have performed the work on the stone.

I have much curiosity to see your opinion on the geology of the Levant. As to the great features of the country, they are very plain; a great tertiary or secondary basin extending from Syria around the southern shores of Asia Minor, taking the coast of Altoca by the way, going up the Dardanelles, and occupying the shores of the Marmora. The inland regions are elevated by the rising of Primary limestone, of granite, and of trap rock, lifting up along three sides, and between them are the more modern formations, rocks of different ages. Then in various districts, such as Lycia, the Kalaurnairon of Strabo, Mt. Parnassus, etc., extinct volcanoes, and sometimes a great extent of country covered over with old lava. These are the general features. But much remains for particular investigation. I have not been able to meet with any work on the subject and so I cannot judge of the opinions of others: but this is the idea I have formed by personal examination, and in rare cases by the information of others, where I could rely upon it.

I promised you sometimes since a list of the remains I have found at the northern extremity of Rhodes in tertiary, being principally shells. That is a very rich place for geological investigation, since all I collected was got in the space of a week or rather in three rambles since the heavy rains did not allow me to go

out more than twice during that time.

1. Root, springy texture.
2. Covering of an equatorial port?
3. *Anonchites ovata*
4. *Dentatium cormani* in immense quantities.
5. *Dentatium novum costatum*. Very abundant.
6. Roots of white branch'g coral.
7. White branching coral; some entire and superb specimens could not be removed.
8. *Serpula vermicularis*.
9. *Solen*
10. *Lutraria lineata*.
11. *Sanguinolaria/livida?*
12. *Telbina orbicula*.
13. *Cytheria zonaria*.
14. *Cytheria impudica*.
15. *Venus conglata*.
16. *Venus uticulata*.
17. *Venus pigmea*.
18. *Luna ventricosa*.
19. *Cardium costatum*; some very large and some very small.
20. *Cardium crenulatum*.
21. *Cardila*.
22. *Arca scapha*.
23. *Arca inequivalis*.
24. *Pectinicus striatularis*.
25. *Pectinicus striatularis*.
26. *Pinna ingens*, generally broken.
27. *Pecten medus*.
28. *Pecten lineatus*.
29. *Pecten tubercular*.
30. *Ostrea falini*.
31. *Fissurella fascicularis*.
32. *Calyptrea*.
33. *Pyleopsis*.
34. *Bullcar aperta*.
35. *Carocolla?*
36. *Natica marillaris*.
37. *Natica alburrica*.
38. *Scallaria lamellose*.
39. *Trochus (erythroleuras?)*; splendid
40. *Trochus circulates*.
41. *Trochus maculatus*.
42. *Trochus pyramidalis*; the Trochi generally very abundant
43. *Monodonta punctate*.
44. *Monadenta viridis*.
45. *Turbo coastatus*.

46. Turbo cornutus.
47. Turbo costatus.
48. Turbo circulatus.
49. Various detached opercula in immense numbers
50. Cirithium tuberculatum.
51. Cirithium obeliscus.
52. Cirithium granulatum.
53. Cirithium fasciculatum.
54. Murex scaber.
55. Murex anguilliferus.
56. Murex cornutus.
57. Murex brevispena.
58. Murex (motacilla?)
59. Triton variegatum
60. Triton corrugatum
61. Rostillaria pes pelicans
62. Strombus
63. Buccinum ventricosum
64. Buccinum lineatum
65. Columbella nitida
66. Columbella reticulate
67. Venus striata
68. Oliva striata
69. Oliva bizonalis
70. Conus marmorins
71. Conus marmocus.

You see that these shells correspondant very much with those now found in the country; not exactly though, for few are found...

Page 3

...at all on that sea board; but in the Archipelago generally. I have a great desire to revisit that island and spend some time in investigations on its geological character. But whether it will ever be practicable, I know not.

I hope that the specimens of wines from this country have not failed to reach you, and have enabled you to draw some important conclusions.

Present my respects to your family and all my friends in Amherst, and ever beleive

Yours, much sincerely, Henry J. Van Lennep

Addressed to: Revd. Edward Hitchcock, Professor of Chemistry and Natural History, etc. etc. etc.,
Amherst College, Amherst, Mass.

Letter 61

[Van Lennep to EH, 25 October 1838, EOH, Series 2-A, Box 4, Folder 9]

Hartford Conn. Oct. 25th 1838

Dear Sir,

I did not get your letter till late last night, but hasten to answer it. I am sorry to say that the very bad weather which continued during my short stay in Springfield, besides the state of my health, prevented my making the little excursion you had proposed; I am glad I should rather have said; for I have no doubt my substitute will do the scenery far greater justice.

I was that Old Haddam a week since, and visited the noted locality of many minerals, some of which you doubtless know, are found nowhere else in the country. The chrysoberil is very good, if I may judge; I never saw so pure specimen of shorl. I found among other things what I have no doubt is tin, which until then I was not at all aware existed in this country. You have probably visited the locality yourself however, and have seen its richness.

With kind remembrance to your family,

I remain, yours etc.

H. J. Van Lennep

Addressed to Professor Edward Hitchcock, Amherst, Mass.

Return address is Jay Van Lennep

Postmark: Hartford

Letter 62

[Van Lennep to EH, 9 March 1839, EOH, Series 2-A, Box 4, Folder 9]

Hartford Conn. March 9th 1839

Professor E. Hitchcock

Dear Sir

I have long hoped to find an opportunity to send the accompanying sketches to you more safely than by public conveyance; not succeeding, I employ that mode, fearing that you may be disappointed if you do not soon obtain them.

I have finished but a few more than those you have seen. My time has not allowed me as much attention to this as was necessary; this the artist who may have them in his hands can easily supply if he understands his business. I am sorry not to be able to advance more the study of nature; but such as the sketches are you are welcome to use them as you may see fit, being entirely yours. Mine will be the recollection of the original landscapes, and the pleasure of aiding you in your efforts though it only be with the weight of an atom.

With my sincerest regards to your family and every inquiring friend, and with every desire for your personal welfare and the success of all your labors,

I am,

Yours, etc.

H. J. Van Lennep

Addressed to Professor Edward Hitchcock, Amherst College, Amherst Mass.

Return address: Van Lennep

Letter 63

[Hamilton to EH, 6 January 1848, EOH, Series 2-A, Box 3 Folder 13]

[On letterhead]

Geological Society of London

Somerset House 6th Jan. 1848

Sir,

I am requested by the Geological Society to express their thanks for your Topographical and Geological Maps of Massachusetts, made by order of the Legislature, mounted on roller, with the "explanation" and to assure you that the society are much honored by this mark of consideration.

I have the honor to be
Sir
Your most obedient
And very humble servant
William J Hamilton
Secretary

To Professor Edward Hitchcock, etc. etc. etc.

Addressed to Prof. Edwd. Hitchcock, Amherst, Massachusetts, US

Return address: London Geological Society, William Hamilton

Letter 64

[Darwin to EH, 6 November 1845, EOH, Series 2-A, Box 3 Folder 8]

Down Bromley Kent

Nov 6th [In pencil: 1845]

[Stationery embossed in upper left corner: John Davies Shrewsbury]

Dear Sir,

Absence from home has prevented me sooner acknowledging your truly generous present of the Final Report on the Geology of Massachusetts. I assure you I feel sensibly the honour and kindness you have done me. I have as yet read only a little, but I see that there will be much that will interest me greatly; I allude more especially to your detailed accounts of the alluvial deposits, ice and water action, etc., etc.

Page 2

Yours is indeed a magnificent work with its numerous and striking illustrations. I am delighted to possess the excellent plates on the footsteps, and I daresay I shall find some further information, though I have carefully read your several papers. In my opinion these footsteps (with which subject your name is certain to go down to long future posterity) make one of the most curious discoveries of the present century and highly important in its several bearings. How sincerely I wish that you may live to discover

some of the bones belonging to these gigantic birds: how eminently interesting it would be know, whether their structure branches off towards the Amphibia, as I am led to imagine that you have sometimes suspected. The finding the bones of the Rhynchosaurus in the pure hard sandstone of Grinshill in Shropshire (where there are some Reptile footsteps) may give one hopes.

I am preparing a little something on the geology of S. America, which, when published next summer, I will beg you to do me the kindness to accept; though it is a miserable acknowledgement for your grand work.

With my sincere thanks and much respect. Pray believe me, dear Sir

Yours faithfully and obliged,

C. Darwin

Envelope:

Addressed to Professor E. Hitchcock L.L.D., Amherst College, Massachusetts, United States of America

Return address: Charles Darwin England

[Envelope that may or may not be related to Darwin's letter]

Letters on Development Hypothesis

Dana (Owen) Morgan

Darwin

John Dunns

Letter 65

[Mantell to EH, 11 July 1845, EOH, Series 2-A, Box 3, Folder 24]

To Professor Hitchcock

Chester Square Pimlico London July 11, 1845

My dear Sir,

Your kind letter of May 12th, together with two books, and a specimen of coprolite were delivered at my trunks a few days since. I very much regret that your friend who brought them did not leave his auspices. I should have availed myself of the opportunity of sending you a few objects that would probably interest you, but yet are not worth sending in a separate parcel by steamer. I am assured that any account of the Ornithichnites is in my report at variance with what you feel something to you; but you must perceive how difficult for a stranger in a distant country to comment with precision what is

clear to most Anatomists. I most assuredly understand from Dr. Deane that [????] examined at the [????] that the imprints on the shore were those of birds feet, from having observed the tracks left by recent birds on the mud of the bank of the river where the [????] [????] appeared; and that it is in this...

Page 2

...connection of their true nature, derived from actual comparison, that led him to call your attention to the subject. Should the *Medals* reach another edition, I will modify the statement. I found myself the first specimens of Iguanodon and Rhynchosaurus in the stone quarries, and directed the attention of the workmen to the discovery of other remains of these reptiles, and therefore had no rival claimant; but to establish the fresh outer character of the skeleton was a labor of years, and in the truth of the opinions of Buckland, Greenhough, Britton, Lyell, etc.; yet now that the nature of that formation is established its discovery is in no way of any standard English works, referred to Britton or Lyell; and even the latter, my personal friend, has not shown me the justice (see his *Elements and Principles*) to maintain that to my laborious numbers so important a discovery is attributable and Owen and others have entered in a similar manner into my portmanto [????] discoveries. "Better than form is still the toil for forms;" and this consideration and the consciousness we have contributed to the establishment of truth and the endorsement of the [????] of the works of the Creator are the proper records of our labors. I lamented over a fine section of your coprolites in the hope of detecting infusion with the microscope, but no traces of organization appear. I hope a little progress of mine on the microscopic examination of chalk and flint will soon be published in one of our periodicals, and I shall have separate copies, I shall beg your acceptance of one and send it with other things to the care of Professor Silliman. Mr. Lyell's work on America is just out, in two small volumes, with a geological map of the U. S. and a view of Niagara Falls colored graphically, from Mr. Blakewell's sketch. I have hastily run through the volumes; but you will probably have seen the work ere this, as it is to be published in New York simultaneously with the English edition. Mr. Lyell lectures at Boston again this autumn. His work is not so copious as I expected either in matter or illustrations. The expense of the latter, if by his best artists, is very great; although I printed 2000 copies of the *Medals*, I shall be at a loss to the...

Page 3

...to the amount of 100 pounds even after the 2 books are sold; many of the woodblocks in the metals cost 5 pounds. I quite envy my friend Mr. Lyell his visit to your country: what delight it would be to me to see you and other correct men who have chosen to unite in the good cause, but this happiness can never be mine.

I am probably obliged by your kind intentions of sending me some specimens, and shall be gratified if I can assist you as any return. And now my doctor, accept of my earnest wishes for your happiness, and believe me to be with great respect.

Yours very sincerely

G. A. Mantell

Addressed to Prof. Edw. Hitchcock, Amherst College, Massachusetts, North America

Return address: Professor Mantell

Letter 66

[Riddell (AES) to EH, 7 July 1845, EOH, Series 2-A, Box 3 Folder 32]

[A form letter from the American Education Society, Boston]

July 7, 1845

Rev. Edward Hitchcock, L.L.D.

Dear Sir,

I have the pleasure to inform you...[etc., etc.]...The other gentleman appointed on the committee are the following

Professor Ebenezer S Snell and

Rev. John Woodbridge, D.D.

[Hand-written at the bottom of the page]

Those who receive as a Loan, give a note for each appropriation in the form required by the Rules, when they receive the money. It is best to include the amount of the previous note and make one new note for the whole, taking up the previous one.

Page 2

Page 3

Rev. and dear Sir,

The foregoing is the form of notification which I used when these Committees were originally constituted, and having a few of them on hand I have taken the liberty to use one in writing to you. You were appointed Chairman at the last meeting of our board, to take Dr. Humphrey's place, and Prof. Snell was appointed on the Committee to make the number full. Dr. Woodbridge was on it before (Does he act?)

I suppose Dr. Humphrey has handed to you the supply of Obligations and Notes (blanks) which remain in his hands. Also any which had been filled and were in his keeping for the Society.

Whenever I come to Amherst I shall bring a supply of these papers with me but if you are not furnished with them please inform me of the fact and I will send to you at once. Any notes or obligations given by the students should be carefully kept for the Society and in due time forwarded to the Rooms in Boston.

I shall send you by Express a few copies of our Constitution and Rules. It is well for you to have some of them on hand, as inquiries will sometimes be made which you can answer by giving the pamphlet.

I send also our last Report for the society and beneficiaries. Be so kind as to put them in a way to be distributed.

With great respect Yours Sam H Riddell

Addressed to: Rev. Edward Hitchcock, President of Amherst College, Amherst, Mass.

Postmark: Boston July 6

Return address: Revd. Mr. Riddell

Letter 67

[Sandberger to EH, 25 June 1845, EOH, Series 2-A, Box 3 Folder 34]

Wiesbaden in Nassau 25 June, 1845

Most Honored ~~Friend~~ Sir

I should a long time since have replied to your esteemed letter which came to hand in Sept. last by sending the present collection of petrifications and minerals, if I could have found time to collect and label the specimens, I have been called from Weilburg on the Lakes to Wiesbaden where my official duties in the gymnasium have put in requisition very closely my time and attention.

I was greatly interested Most Honored Sir to receive more minute information respecting the geognostical relations and associations of the these regions. I have to report that in this country the works of Prof. Rogers cannot be obtained. An acquaintance of mine, Dr. Fred Römer from Berlin, may perhaps call upon you, who is anxious to acquaint himself with the geognostical relations (geological formations?) of North America and to make collections of them.

Page 2

Allow me to hope that the accompanying box of minerals will be acceptable to you. I have at least most anxiously sought to send you not only good specimens but also as far as possible a full suite of the minerals of this region. I hope that they will come to you in good condition. Have the goodness to transmit whatever you may send in return by way of Rotterdam. I do not pay the freight of this box, and you will do the same in sending to me. In addition to as full a collection as possible, of ever of overalllyingpetrifications (transition petrifications) the foot tracks from Orinocko as well as your best engelatine minerals would be very acceptable to me.

I take the liberty to send to you a geologicalpaleological address which I delivered last year and which has special relation to Nassau; together with duplicate plates of some animal species hoping that they may be interesting to you.

When you see Sir Park and Sir Coleman commend me to their friendly remembrance.

With the most respectful consideration.

Your

Obedient

Dr. Guido Sandberger Instructor of Natural Science in the learned gymnasium of Wiesbaden in Nassau.

Envelope: Dr. Sandberger

Page 3

[Receipt]

Shipped in good order and well-conditioned by Schmidt and Balcher on board the Brig called the Harald Haarfager whereof Mr. Ball is Master for this voyage, now lying at the Port of New York and bound for bountiful Rotterdam. To say:

One Box

being marked and numbered as in the margin; and are to be delivered in the like good order and well-conditioned, at the aforesaid Port of Rotterdam (the dangers of the seas only excepted), unto Messrs. Hirdig and Blockhugger or to _____ assigns, he or they paying the freight for the said Box.

One dollar US currency

With 5% primage and average accustomed. In witness where, the Master or Purser of the said vessel hath affirmed to 3 Bills of Lading, all of this tenor and date; one of which being accomplished, the others stand void.

Dated in New York, the 13th day of June 1850

Contents unknown

[Signature] [????] Ball

[Left side]

Dr. Guido Sandberger
Wiesbaden Nassau
Germany
care of Schmidt Balcher
N. York

Letter 68

[Charles S. Whittlesey to EH, 27 November 1846, EOH, Series 2-A, Box 4 Folder 14]

Sketch of ripple marks in the sand
Mouth of Train River, L. Superior.

[Illustration]

Cleveland, Ohio
November 27, 1846

Pres. E. Hitchcock
Andover Mass.

Dr. Sir – I was this day reading you final Report upon Massachusetts and at page 445 noticed a sketch Fig. 88 of ripple marks in the new red sandstone that you truly consider as surprise and unexplainable.

During my last ??? trip along the southern shore of Lake Superior I noticed precisely the same thing...

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...in the sand in shallow water at the mouth of Train River about 8 miles west of the Pictured Rocks and give you on this sheet a sketch or vertical section as made at the time in my notes.

For more a quarter of a mile out from the shore the water was shallow varying from $\frac{1}{2}$ a foot to $1\frac{1}{2}$ feet and of course so pure and transparent that the bottom was as distinctly seen as though no water covered it.

Like all the rivers is on that lake although there was deep water inside the shoals and bars at the mouth and but a few inches water and we were obliged to drag the boat through them the sand yielding easily to the force of a few men. The sand is whitish and silver rather coarse and is in the form represented for a distance of 40 or 50 rods from the shore. The mouth of the river is at the head of a Bay about 3 miles deep and about the same in breadth. The inner or land side slope of the ripple is more steep than the outward not only in the main ridge but the subordinate a lesser one the [illustration] but the difference is not as proved as is represented. They were very regular and parallel and apparently compound to the curve of the those in their general direction. They were regular in width from the main summit to the next and the middle ridged always appeared to be at the center of the main depression and the steepest slopes were towards the shore and the current of the river. I believe you now have all the facts that I have, and I can speculate upon the theory of their formation and of their kindred in the sandstone.

I did not examine the texture of the sand of the middle ridge to see whether it was firmer or coarser than the others. If pressed I should have felt that it might have resulted from a gentler and subsidiary action of the wave and the current not strong enough to disturb the coarser slopes.

My respectfully yours

Chas. Whittlesey

Addressed to Pres. E. Hitchcock, ~~Andover~~, Massachusetts
[Below] Amherst Mass.

Return address: Charles S Whittlesey

Postmark: Cleveland O. Nov. 30

Letter 69

[Child to EH, 8 March 1847, EOH, Series 2-A, Box 3 Folder 5]

Lowell March 8, 1847

My Dear sir

Your favor of February 16 was received here two or three days after its date. But owing to a peculiar pressure of engagements as well as the great importance of the subject to which your letter refers and the importance of well considering it has prevented my replying as early as I could wish. But I hope the delay will not be of any serious detriment to your plans. I have also delayed writing that I might have opportunity to ascertain the probability of the successful accomplishment of the last suggestion in your letter.

I trust dear sir that I need not say that the announcement in your letter with regard to yourself has given me great pain. Your emperiled health with the necessity of, in your own examination of resigning the Presidency of the college is a subject which I have hardly been able to bring myself calmly to consider. Your election to that situation I regarded from the first as a circumstance which would give to the college a great advantage in extending the circle of its influence. Your position in the scientific world I believe would attract to the college attentions of men of a somewhat different character than those who had before been its benefactors and friends. And in this I think I have not been disappointed. It is now difficult for me to express the full amount of regret which I should feel if you should be compelled to resign the presidency.

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Is there no way in which an event which I should so much regret can be avoided. I know the cares and exigencies which in your present situation oppress you. But cannot some means be devised to give you an opportunity to recruit your health. I could not upon any consideration bring my mind to consent that your connection with the college should cease altogether unless I should be absolutely required by yourself to give such consent. Might not your labors lessened if an additional professorship should be established were the means to secured to endow it – so that with less labor you might retain your present situation and yet recruit your health. Since I received your letter I have had my attention called to this subject and have taken time to ascertain if in this particular if any thing can be done. On this subject I will speak hereafter.

If however your determination is unalterably fixed to resign I have no doubt that the plan suggested by you as to the manner of securing your succession is by far the best measure that could be adapted hence I should with the utmost cordiality agree to select for your place any man whom you in view of all the circumstances should think If however you should think but to recommend. But as you have requested me to give an opinion of the individuals named or others with my preference I have no objection to give my impressions. I think much of the gentleman named. They have each excellences peculiar to themselves. Mr. Barnes of Philadelphia has many very superior traits of character and science which would fit him for such a position. Would there be any objection to him from the fact that he is a Presbyterian. I know he is not an old school Presbyterian. But your students to great extent are to come from New England. Would there be any feeling among New England parents that they would prefer a Congregationalist? Would Mr. Barnes have as much sympathy with New England people as one

of our own men. Would he be likely to be satisfied with the situation after having been so long a Pastor over a large congregation and in the receipt of a larger salary than we could give him.

Doct. Adams of New York is a New England man hence I am but little acquainted with him. He is a man of popular talents and if I rightly understand him would he be willing to retire to the daily labors of a college most of which are out of the sight of this world? Or would he feel that he could be more useful in a situation in which opportunity would be offered for labors of a more public character.

Doct. E Beecher in my judgment has many gratifications which eminently fit him for the situation. He is a man of great learning and research—a man who loves study and loves labor—hence I have sometime thought is a man of more strictly study and research than originality and as is apt to be in the case with very studious men as I have sometimes thought, with less practical views of men and things hence therefore less qualified to be the master spirit in controlling and governing a college of young men. The President of a college should also it seems to me be one sufficiently versed in human nature that he cannot merely control and manage the students, but should be able to secure the entire confidence and cooperation of the faculty and the affection and respect of the students.

Doct. Todd of Pittsfield is a man of splendid genius...

Page 3

...and is well calculated to make himself known and felt. But I have thought that in all things he might not have so much prudence and discretion as I used to think was possessed by President Bay of Yale College.

But still I would cheerfully vote for any one of the individuals named and think they would do well.

I have often thought since I received your letter of the Revd. Nehemiah Adams of Boston a man which I think will calculate for such a place. He is a man of a well balanced mind of great personal worth—would be accessible to the students and well calculated to secure the confidence and esteem of his associates. But I am hereby prepared to give a clear preference to either of the individuals named over the other—as I think either would do well.

In regard to the proposal of securing the means of a permanent salary for the President as intimated in your letter I am greatly rejoiced—and it is to me the more to be regretted that your health should compel you to resign the presidency and the [????] when there is a prospect of securing to that effect a permanent salary especially as you have labored for very inadequate compensation.

By your last suggestion it seems that the gentleman alluded to will give his note for \$10,000 of the \$30,000 if \$10,000 more can be secured which will be sufficient for another professorship. If this can be done you will with Mr. Williston's professorship have \$60,000 for permanent professorships which will place the college upon a...

Page 4

...permanent foundation.

Since I received your letter I have taken time to ascertain the prospect of securing the \$10,000. And while I am unwilling to raise expectations which we will not be realized, I think I can without difficulty and very soon, obtain that sum upon certain conditions which I think will be acceptable to yourself. And the Trustees I have no positive assurances and am not at liberty to name to day the individual from whom this sum can be obtained. But I have very strong confidence in the success of my plan. Before anything further is done by me to effect the object it is necessary for me to have a personal interview with yourself as to certain things connected with the subject which could not so well be experienced in writing as in a personal interview.

I am now expecting to go South Hadley next week to be present one day at the examinations of Miss Lyon's school, where I have a daughter. I expect to reach South Hadley on Tuesday evening of next week and remain there during the day on Wednesday. I would be very glad to see you at South Hadley at that time in relation to the above matter. I would come to Amherst and see you but my engagements confine me here pretty close hence I must return as soon as Thursday morning and I should not have time to go to Amherst if I spend a day at South Hadley as I should desire to do. I feel therefore constrained...

Page 4

...to ask of you the favor to meet me on Wednesday of next week at South Hadley.

I have written in great haste and amidst numerous and pressing engagements and if I have not expressed myself so fully and clearly as I could have wished I trust I shall have the opportunity to make myself more fully understood in the personal interview which I hope to enjoy next week.

Yours truly

friend and obedient servant

Linus Child

[On the left:] Revd. Edward Hitchcock D.D.

Addressed to Rev. Edward Hitchcock, President of Amherst College, Amherst Mass.

Return address: Hon. Linus Child

Postmark: Lowell Ms March 8

[Biography of Linus Child]

Letter 70

[Mark Hopkins to EH, 25 July 1848, EOH, Series 2-A, Box 3, Folder 20]

Williams College July 25th 1848

President Hitchcock,

Dear Sir,

Yours of Nov. 12th inst. would have received immediate attention but for the feeble state of my health.

The object you propose is highly desirable, and I know of no reason why a communication regarding it should indicate even eccentricity unless a desire to do good should be so regarded. For my part I am much obliged to you, and if anything can be done would most gladly cooperate in it. Here however I must say in regard to a number of the points you mention (those involving expense) that persons must be able to operate before they can cooperate. Poor as we now are, any thing of that kind would be out of the question, but should we become able we will talk about it, and it would be strange if certain valuable courses of instruction might not be most advantageously provided for in that way. I have no faith in college periodicals. My experience is all against them and from the nature of the case...

Page 2

...the persons conducting them, that is if they are really conducted by students, are so transient that it seems to me scarcely possible they should be permanent. I think too that pecuniary trouble has been uniformly connected with those I have known. A Committee such as you mentioned might be useful if we had the right men, and may be here after appointed, but I should not wish to begin with that. What seems to me to be needed first is more free intercourse between the offices of the Institutions and a comparison by them of different courses and modes of instruction and discipline, and where they had corrected every thing they should see wrong a committee might be called in. As an instance of what I mean I will mention that one of your graduates who attended our recent examinations in my study today and says that your closing examinations only comprise the studies of the senior year whereas we go over the whole course. In Union I think they examine only on the studies of the last term. You have Yale with you, and how it is with the other New England colleges I cannot say. This ought not to be so. My suspicion is that Yale has adopted that course from necessity on account of the size of the classes, but that the effects will be unhappy upon the whole course of study and also if it is regarded as we now regard it as an examination for a degree there is no reason why other parts of the course should not come in. I regard that course as a letting down to the standard of education but I have reason to know that we are losing students by holding onto it and if the Colleges around us continued to go the other

way probably we should be subject to fall in. Perhaps I am wrong in my views, but in any rate there ought to be a uniformity. I think too there should be a better understanding and there seems to be about the manner in which a student under some degree consents may pass from our College to another. We had a young man here this term from yours a—son-in-law of Professor Gray—with a paper which he expected, and which I should think from what Professor G said you expected would be gain him admittance here, but which, according to our usages we could not receive. But I cannot now speak of this. I have felt the want of intercourse and the only reason I have not been over to see you is that I have had to work out of all reason and really want not. I do not see my way out of the woods yet.

Perhaps I ought to have said at first that I agree entirely with the general proposition you...

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...state. I do not enter college here till the great struggle between the two institutions was over and my feelings never became interested in it. Indeed I knew very little of it at the time. I have always supposed that words stand and be useful, and can truly say that I rejoiced when you were free from embarrassment and at your recent remarkable prosperity. This feeling I hope always to cherish and it will lead to any practicable cooperation on my part.

I suppose President Everett has inquired of you whether you will cooperate in another application to the legislature. I shall lay the matter upon our Trustees, but for myself replied that I should have no hope unless the basis of the application would change. I think there would be a chance if we would apply all the money to tuition till college and education should be placed to every child of Massachusetts on the same footing as common school education. Why not? On any other ground we should be more likely to get more money without Cambridge than with her—still it may be best to go on. I am not satisfied with the principle on which they propose to divide the money, and if another trial is made I think we had better have some consultations about it.

According to your wish I have shown your letter to no one of the gentlemen here, and have said nothing to them about it though I see no more reason why I should not.

With much respect and regards

Yours

Mark Hopkins

Addressed to Reverend Edward Hitchcock, D.D., Amherst Mass.

Return address: President Hopkins

Postmark: Williamstown Mass. July 25

Letter 71

[Humphrey to EH, 16? June 1848, EOH, Series 2-A, Box 3, Folder 23]

Pittsfield June 16, 1848

Rev. Dr. Hitchcock,

Dear Sir,

I hasten to knowledge your kind invitation to meet the friends and patrons of Amherst College on the 20th inst., for the purposes mentioned in your note. It will, I am sure, be an exceedingly interesting occasion; and I should love to participate in the greetings and congratulations, in the midst of which, so many hearts will leap for joy.

"The Lord hath done great things for Amherst College, whereof we are glad." "He hath remembered it in its low and embarrassed state," and raised up proceeds for its eventual relief. First of all our fervent thanksgivings are due to Him, whose are the silver and gold; and then, our grateful acknowledgments to the stewards who with his high approbation, I nothing doubt, have contributed so liberally to place the institution on a stable foundation.

Though I cannot be present in person, my heart will be with you. "It is a good thing to give thanks unto the Lord and...

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...to talk of all his wondrous works." The foundations of Amherst College were laid in prayer and faith; and how would those good men, its earliest and fastest friends who have departed, rejoice with those who survive, could they come back and witness "what God hath wrought."

Their aim was, to build up an institution for the church, "upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ being the chief cornerstone," and we believe that God heard this prayer. "Other safe foundations can no man lay," and from this may it never be shaken.

May a double portion of that wisdom which is from above, be implanted to its trustees and teachers; may the rain of righteousness descend upon it, as in years that are passed, and still more copiously. May the streams which flow from it, not only make glad the cities of our God at home, but continue to flow into the parched places of the wilderness, till every land shall be watered, "from the river of God, which is full of water." With best regards to the gentlemen who have "built you a synagogue" and who are coming to dedicate it, I am very truly and respectfully yours,

H. Humphrey

Addressed to: Rev. President Hitchcock, Amherst, Mass.,

Return address: Dr. Humphrey No. 2

Postmarked: Pittsfield Mass. June 17

Letter 72

[Schneider to EH, 20 November 1848, EOH, Series 2-A, Box 3 Folder 35]

Rev. E Hitchcock L.L.D., President, Amh. College

Smyrna, in Quarantine

November 20th 1848

My dear brother:

I am on my return from my visit to Aintab in northern Syria, and am now performing my quarantine in this place. With the leave of divine Providence I hope to reach my familiar Broosa on the fifth or sixth of December. Your final letter, together with a copy of your inaugural address, have been received in Broosa. I am obliged to you for the favor. I have not yet seen them, though I may receive the letter before I close this.

You have doubtless heard of what is called the "Aleppo button" viz. a sort of sore or boil, which affects the inhabitants of that city. It is, however, not confined to Aleppo, but prevails in Aintab, Mosul, Beredgit, and in many places in the banks of the Euphrates. But it seems to be more virulent in Aintab than in any other place, certainly more so there than in Aleppo. The sore normally appears on children; sometimes in the first, sometimes in the second and often in the third year, and so on: but generally childhood is the period for its development. What is remarkable is the fact that all have it: not any of the inhabitants of Aintab escape. In Aleppo I think it is not universal, as in other places. Though it prevails generally, there are some few exceptions. It usually appears in the face, and most commonly on one or both cheeks, and as it always leaves a scar behind, their faces become much deformed; in some cases they are very much disfigured. I once saw a child whose whole face was a complete blotch. Often it breaks out on the end of the nose, which it sometimes cuts off entirely. I have seen several cases and have heard of many in which the nose was gone. The daughter one of the Protestants in Aintab was affected in her nose. It ate around the tip of the nose so much that one day it fell off. The little girl ran to her mother and exclaimed, "Mother, my...

Page 2

...nose is falling off!" The mother had presence of mind enough to clap on again the broken off piece and it grew again, though of course the child is much disfigured. She is now about ten years of age. Often it breaks out on the ear, the eyelid, the neck, the legs and feet and toes, and sometimes rarely on the body. It lasts from two to six months. Usually it appears but once, though sometimes twice. It is not very painful; and were it not for the scars with which it disfigures the face it would not be much heeded. There is this difference between the sore at Aleppo and Aintab. At its former place it does not appear on the face so much while in Aintab there is hardly an individual to be found male or female who does not bear the scar on some part of his face. A singular fact was stated to me by an aged man, viz. that some

person from abroad came to Aintab to live. He had this sore several times and could not get rid of it. Someone said to him that he would not be released from it until he married. He afterwards entered the matrimonial state, and it was cured. The connection matrimony can have to the subject I know not. I give you the fact as it was stated to me.

The foreigners, who came to reside any time in Aleppo and Aintab, have this sore; though in their case it more frequently appears on other parts of the body, not on the face. If they remain only a comparatively short time, it often breaks out months after they have left the region. Mr. Johnston, the missionary, who spent five months last year in these two places, had it on his forehead (though rather slightly I think) four or six months after he left. A French gentleman, who resided a while in Aleppo, had a breakout on him several years after he had left the place and returned to France. As I have been five months in Aintab I shall, probably, also have it.

It is generally supposed to be owing to the water of the place. That you may have an opportunity of testing the question, I have put up three kinds of water (that most used in Aintab) in the canisters. I have also brought with me specimens of another variety of stones in and around the city, with some other specimens, picked up on the road. I put them all together in a little box, to accompany this letter. I thought you might be interested in analyzing both the water and the stones, so as to detect the ingredient. If it is discovered, the antidote to it may also be found. Should it prove to be a cheap and easy remedy it might prove a great blessing to the inhabitants. And as Aintab will in all probability become a permanent missionary station, occupied by two American families, it becomes a matter of personal interest to them. If by the use of such an antidote the faces of the children could be preserved from being thus disfigured they would feel very grateful to the discoverer.

Prof. Silliman, I understand, has some of the stone (given him by Dr. Smith, name in Aintab) though none of the water. Doctor G thinks it may be magnesia in some combination. I ought to have said, that the sore breaks out in the fall or winter, when the rains prevail. As the water I have brought was taken in the summer, when rains are unknown, it may have very little of the ingredient, whatever it be, in solution. But I hope you will be able to detect some of it. One or two facts would seem to indicate that the water is the cause. In Helles, a town lying about halfway between Aleppo and Aintab, this sore does not prevail. The formation of rocks there is totally different; Dr. Smith says it is chiefly Trap rock. I intended to have picked up some more specimens, but as we passed the place in the night, I did not. Much of the water used in Aleppo comes from the vicinity of Aintab, and the rock in and around Aleppo is very much of the same nature as in Aintab.

These are the principal facts in regard to the subject. If you can discover, in this water and these minerals, any cause for this eruption I shall be very obliged to you, if you will inform me as soon as you can find time. It is not improbable that I may be requested to remove thither with my family within the year, at least, the suggestion has been made at the Missionary House.

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As to my visit to Aintab, you will probably have seen how one account of it in the Herald, before this reaches you. It has been a season of deep interest to me. I have been now nearly 15 years on missionary ground, and these five months have been the most interesting portion of the whole period. It was my happiness to see a gradual yet constant increase to the congregation during the summer. When I arrived, there were between 25 and 30 hearers; and when I left there was a permanent congregation of 100; this increase was made in the midst of determined opposition and persecution. What was more

cheering than all besides was the interest and attention with which my message was received. It would have done your very heart good to see with what power and effect the truth would often fall on the audience. O! how often was my soul cheered and animated in the midst of my discourse, as I read the impressions of the truth on my auditory.

The close attention, the uttering of a sigh, the half suppressed prayer, and often the moistened eye or the trickling tear, showed me that they were not listening in vain. Though often much wearied by labor I had six regular services every week besides constant visits, a stranger entirely alone without a single individual of congenial feelings and separated from my family the pleasure of preaching to such an audience more than outweighed these inconveniences. My mind dwells on these scenes with great delight. Before I left, 17 were added to the church. The communion season was one of great interest and solemnity. Many were deeply affected, and I cannot but believe that very salutary impressions were made that lay upon many a mind and heart. The prospects for the future there are of the most cheering kind. With the continued blessing of God, we may expect that there may be a congregation from 200 to 300 within a year or two. The whole Armenian nation here has been shaken to its very center and very many have lost their attachment to the old Armenian church and are leaning strongly towards Protestantism. But you will see the particulars in the Herald. Pray for that interesting and promising field.

On my return I passed through the Bryrval and went up to Mt. Lebanon to Bhamdoon to see Mr. and Mrs. Eli Smith. They request me to remember her to you very particularly. I enjoyed my visit to them exceedingly. You may imagine that after not having heard the sound of English for five months, intercourse with beloved Christian brethren and sisters was very refreshing. As we rode up the sides of Lebanon I said, "How I wish President Hitchcock could come to visit these interesting regions." The main...

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...desire I have often felt and expressed in regard to our Olympus and the region about Broosa. What do you say to the proposition? You would so much enjoy such a visit! All these regions not only passes so much classical and Biblical but also geological interest, that you would be highly compensated; and the additions to the stores of natural science, which you want to be able to make, would be very interesting. I need not say that you would receive a most hearty welcome from all of the missionaries and from none of them more so than your former pupils.

Will you please present my fraternal regards to Prof. Tyler. I think he is indebted to me on the score of correspondence; and having this impression, I am waiting to hear from him before I write him again. I take the liberty to put into the box for him a geode from Mt. Lebanon, a cane from a cedar of Lebanon, and a branch from part of one of the cedars. I suppose you have specimens of all these, or I would put in one of each for you. I only regret that the grade is not a finer one. The fact is, it was sunset or nearly so by the time I arrived at the locality, and it had yet to descend the mountain to Beyroot that opening, and had a lacky with me besides. As so many have been collected there, one has to search a good while before finding a good one. If he and Mrs. T. do not value it for its beauty, they may for its locality. The petrified olives of which you doubtless have specimens are also forwarded for them; they are from Palestine.

The box, a small one, is directed to yourself, and you will find it at the Missionary House, Pemberton Square, Boston, where I direct it to be left. The box and this letter go by the same opportunity.

I have read with much interest the account of Amherst commencement in the papers and I rejoice in the prosperity of our beloved Alma Mater. May the smiles of heaven rest upon the institution; and from year-to-year may it send forth many and bless with their influence our country and the heathen world. I...

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...I hope and pray you may long have life and health to preside over it. I am rejoiced to learn that your health is so much improved. I trust expected health will not again oblige you to leave your nation for a time; but should such a necessity arise, why not make a visit to this Eastern world, and recruit your strength by exploring its immense stores? I need not inform you that the marvelous steamers not only across the Atlantic, but over the waters of the Mediterranean and Archipelago in every direction and increasing in numbers would enable you to make the trip in comparatively a small time.

May the Lord guide and bless you in all your labors—the brethren and sisters and [????] are well and all were well at Broosa up to the ninth.

Yours in much affection

B. Schneider

[Across the top of the page in very small print]

November 25. Since writing the above yours of April 29th 48 has been forwarded to me. I thank you not only for the inaugural address, but also the Catalogue and other pamphlets sent. I shall read the tribute to Prof. Fiske with much interest. I came very near seeing him—regretted much that I could not. But all the missionaries who saw him were most favorably impressed with his simplicity and spirituality. You need not apologize for not having answered my letters before. I well know that your hands are already full, and I hope you will not neglect more important duties for corresponding with me, though I always love to receive a letter from you. Please also to say to Prof. Tyler, that I have his letter of April 10th before me, I should answer it soon. How much I rejoice in the prosperous events you speak of as happened to Amherst. The Lord ever smiles upon it.

[Aintab was a region of Northern Syria at one time, also known as Gaziantep. Today it is part of Turkey. Broosa probably refers to Bursa, Turkey, also known as Bilecik.]

Letter 73

[Corning to EH, 18 August 1851, EOH, Series 2-A, Box 3 Folder 7]

[This is a printed invitation.]

Mr. Corning requests the company of Prof. E. Hitchcock on Wednesday evening next, at 8 o'clock.

102 State St.

August 18, 1851

Addressed to: Prof. E. Hitchcock, Delavan House

Return address: Mr. Corning

Letter 74

[Morse to EH, 18 January 1851, EOH, Series 2-A, Box 3 Folder 28]

New York 18 January 1851

Rev. President Hitchcock

Dear Sir,

Your favor of 9 inst. is before us. On referring to our files, we find the following communications from your pen. If any errors or omissions, please inform us that we may correct them.

Page 117 Letter from Wales	1½ columns
Page 122 Excursions in Wales	1-
Page 134 British Association	1+
Page 145 ditto	2
Page 153 Peace Congress	2

In all	7½ columns
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which at \$5 a column amounts to	\$37.50
Deduct subscription for 1857	\$2.50

Leaves due	\$35
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for which amount please draw on us at one day's sight.

We shall be glad to receive further communications from you and to pay you our usual price for domestic correspondence, and hope you may find time to prepare them. We are desirous of enriching the columns of our paper in its new form with contributions from our ablest writers, and are disposed to make such compensation as will induce them to write; though their chief object, we are aware, must still be the public good. We are desirous...

...among other plans, to give a retrospect of the last half century.

What topics in such a retrospect, will you please to inform us, would you be disposed to prepare for us?

Very respectfully yours etc.

Sidney E. Morris by R. C. Morris

Sidney E Morris 1851

[See biographical information on Sidney E. Morris, editor of the New York Observer.]

Letter 75

[Smith to EH, 5 December 1851, EOH, Series 2-A, Box 4 Folder 5]

[Appears to be an envelope or shipping label]

December 5, 1851 by Steamer

To Mr. Revd. Professor Hitchcock D.D.,
President of Amherst College
Virginia(?) ["Virginia" has been crossed out]

United States

Post Paid

Return address: is Ebenezer Pye-Smith

Letter 76

[Joseph A. Clay to EH, 20 May 1853, EOH, Series 2-A, Box 3 Folder 6]

Philad. May 20, 1853

E. Hitchcock Sr. Esq.

Dear Sir

As the warm weather is drawing and rather more time afforded for mineralogy, I should like to know whether you can furnish me any specimens of Spodumene? If you can do so let me have a box as soon as practicable with the prices affixed. This box may be sent by Adam's Express—at my expense—with the liberty on my part to take or send back what I may fancy—also at my expense. Can you procure any

specimens of the old Chesterfield Tourmaline or of Columbite? If you can—send them, on the same terms, with any other rare mineral in your power.

I shall feel much obliged by an answer. Direct the box (and your letter) to No. 47 South Fifth St, Philadelphia.

Very truly and respfly

Joseph A. Clay

Letter 77

[James Orton to EH, 22 July 1853, EOH, Series 2-A, Box 3, Folder 29]

Williams College

Williamstown Ms. July 22nd 1853

Dear Sir—

I wish to make a proposition. During our next vacation of four weeks commencing August 11 I intend to make a mineralogical (or also botanical) excursion to Nova Scotia. Such an expedition will cost me about \$40. Now as finances with me are just the moment below par, I wish to ask if the Cabinet of the Seminary is not deficient in those minerals which occur in the favored region of Nova Scotia—particularly the Zeolite family if I remember rightly. Now if you will so influence the pecuniary dignitaries of said institution that they will be disposed to...

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...allow me \$10 \$20 or \$30 I will agree to send the Nova Scotia minerals in proportion. I have been engaged at the science for eight or nine years past; and I am going with a student who has a peculiar faculty for smelling out minerals.

You are probably aware what varieties are found in that region, and you could tell at a glance whether you are in want of them or not.

Hoping to receive an early reply I remain with sentiments of regard,

Your friend,

James Orton

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G. Orton
Wms. Coll.

Letter 78

[Charissa Hitchcock to EH, 16 September 1855, EOH, Series 2-A, Box 3, Folder 17]

Ridgeway
September 16th 1855

My Dear Brother. I should have written in the letter that Doctor sent you, but was very busy. I wish to know if it is not Possible for you to visit us once more, if you know how much you was wanted here you would try to come the Books and Pamphlets you sent us are all lent to the Neighbours before I can get them to read your inaugural address is at Medina I have not read it yet. There is some here turning their attention to geology but know very little about it, if you lived here how Glad we should be. You are known in this country by reputation about as well as you are in Massachusetts. Mr. Perly C. Jones from Chelsea Vt. has lately been to his Uncles that lives close by us, on a visit. The pamphlet called the Coronation of Winter was there, he was astonished to find your name there said he was well acquainted with you and there was not a man to be found that was your Equal he said he had been a long time in Amherst College.

Since you was here we have had our Cocoonery made into an Infirmary and Bath House which has brought people here from a great distance, and given us a chance to find out their dispositions, some are very good and some very bad the first two years we had as much company as they do at a tavern, there is not as many comes now, but those that do come pay much better.

Please give my love to Sister Orra and tell her I have not forgot the good visit I had with her when she was here and she must come again. If it was not a Brother that I am writing to I could not be persuaded to send this letter. I wrote it so bad—but you will know who it is from will not expect anything better. It was a great comfort to me to receive so many good letters from our Dear Father but that Comfort I can no more enjoy.

The sun is set and I must bid you good night and subscribe myself

Your Sister Charissa Swett

Mr. Edward Hitchcock

Address: Edward Hitchcock Pt., Amherst, Massachusetts

Return address: Mrs. Charissa Swett

Letter 79

[Soltau to EH, 5 May 1857, EOH, Series 2-A, Box 4, Folder 7]

Durrant
near Biddeford
Devon
England

May 15th 1857

Dear Sir

You will pardon the liberty I take in addressing you, when I inform you that my occasion for so doing arises out of some responsibilities which a perusal of your work in geology has forced upon me. It is only of late that I have seen your book entitled "The Religion of Geology and its Connected Sciences"; some observations which I happen to make in conversation with some Christian friends, strongly reprobating the current theories of the day on that subject, induced one of them to lend me your work; he judged favorably of it, and was surprised at the tone of my remarks, and attributing what I said partly to my ignorance wished me to peruse your treatise. I accordingly carefully read these parts especially in which the Word of God is alluded to; and I may truly say that my judgment respecting the theory you have there advanced was greatly strengthened, and that were I again to converse on the subject I should use still stronger terms of reprobation; and should in no measured way denounce the system. Another recent occurrence has also contributed to make me tremble for those who deal in the way you have done, with the Word of God. I allude to the melancholy end of Mr. Hugh Miller of Edinburgh. He has stamped the imprimatur of his blood upon his last work on geology. The last pages of that work were wet from the press, and had been just corrected by him, when he took the deadly weapon in his hand and put a period to his existence here. I believe this is a solemn voice from God as to the tendency of the modern scientific theories. Men will ordinarily see in this catastrophe only a natural result of an overworked brain—but what should a believer in Christ learn from such an event? Has God expressed a warning in it. Did the fall of Saul upon Mt. Gilboa by his own hand proclaim no warning! Poor Mr. Miller has fallen like him upon "his high places"—haunted by an evil spirit as he himself previously expressed it, thus he was permitted by God to close his career of science. Had he been exercised in His Master's work would such a tragical end have been allowed! I do not stop to enquire whether he was a true believer or not in Jesus. This does not alter the question as to the sad and...

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...solemn termination of his earthly existence. I am assured that it is a very loud voice from God to all those who make a God of their science and sacrifice the word of the only true God to the theories of men and the reasonings of their own minds. My perusal of your work, and the effect this fearful end of Mr. Miller has had upon my soul, both combined have induced me to try and reply to some of the leading statements in your book, where the scriptures of truth are implicated. But I am loath to publish anything without first addressing a few lines to you, entreating you for your own soul's sake and for the sake of the eternal welfare of others to reconsider with earnest prayer to God the assertions you have made. I cannot but behold you in the fearfully perilous circumstances of having made yourself an antagonist to God. I know he is marvelous by long suffering, and a perusal of your book has impressed the thought more strongly than ever on my soul; how patient and forbearing God is; for I must in

honestly tell you that I never before read a work which so presumptuously calls His word in question; or treats it with such contempt. I am sure you are not aware of this; I give you full credit for not knowing what you are about and this is my comfort when I bend my knees for you before Him. I can truly hear the words of my Lord—“Father forgive them they know not what they do”; at the same time I can only account for this your condition in the power that the adversary has by means of human learning and science, bewildered and blinded you. Your wish is written upon the superbities [?] of the word of God, the word of the Holy Ghost, inspired directly by him, were composed for a semi-barbarous people – is therefore crude, and not adapted to instructed minds. From this proverb [?] (strings most illogically) you take the liberty to vary the meanings of distinct passages at pleasure—so that you deny that God created anything on the first, second and fourth days—and as to creation in the remaining three days, it was only a bringing out again, what had been previously created and a working up of old materials. You deny that death is the curse and the wages of sin; that the serpent was a serpent; that the curse in the garden [?] was any curse at all. That the deluge was universal; that all the animal creatures were destroyed by it—you also deny the resurrection of the body; and virtually set altogether aside the atonement of the Lord Jesus Christ, as you write about men as if they had power and capacity to lift themselves out of their ruined state. In fact your book cuts at the rest of all the blessed truths of Salvation; I am prepared to prove this from your own words, the analysis of your work that I have made fully demonstrates these grave charges. But my earnest desire is that you may yourself be led to correct your own errors; that you may have the honor of exposing your own mistakes; assured I am that you will execute the task so well as yours.

You will I doubt not consider me very bold and it may be presumptuous in writing these words to one who stands so high in the world’s estimation, and also in so respected and I question not beloved by all around—you may also imagine that I have some authority of name or reputation which makes me bold in this matter. But it is not so—I am literally no one. I have no name in the world, reputation, no titles. But I have authority, and that from one who has redeemed me by His blood, to speak on behalf of his name and word. I have moreover command from him not to let another perish if it be in my power to warn him, without endeavoring in any wise to stay his fearful progress to ruin. Whatever obloquy or scorn may be cast upon my words now, I know that day will come when I shall have the approval of my Lord at least for my intentions. I write to you dear sir in expectation of that day when we must give account of our ways and words. You and I are personally unknown to each other and in all probability shall continue so, but not forever— we must both meet hereafter before the Shrine of Christ, to whom God has committed all judgments. I desire that you may be clear in this matter at that day.

I know not the state of your soul – I cannot ascertain it from your book, for though there is a passage here and there which made me for a moment hope that you are a sinner saved by the precious blood of Christ, the greater part of the work cause me again to fear that you are either...

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...what is ordinarily termed a Unitarian—or at least that you have never realized the wondrous mercy of God in the gift of his own son, and that you have not learned as yet the desperate wickedness of such a heart. I do not think it would be possible for one who has tasted the marvelous grace of God in judging his own beloved Son under his fierce wrath, in order that the sinner may escape. I say I can hardly think it possible that such an one could treat God’s word in the way you have done. Be this however as it may—one thing is clear, we cannot gather grapes of thorns, neither doth a good tree bring forth evil

fruits—and thus judging by your book I am bound to testify to you of the mercy and grace of God in the death of His Son, and to exhort you to repentance and faith in Jesus. What will all your scientific pursuits and speculations avail you in the hour of your need? Did they avail poor Mr. Miller? Did they soothe or quiet his troubled soul! Did they chase away from him the enemy that assaulted him? Death brings to a mournful level the wisest and the most foolish. You and I shall in all human probability soon have that summons—but there is something beyond death—the judgment— “it is appointed unto men once to die and after that the judgment.” The word of God in the [????] of the son of God will be the book to acquit and the book to condemn. What will be the sentence from that book upon those who have perverted that book? To add to, or take away from the great truths therein contained will involve the soul in plagues and eternal death. Revelations 22 10:19. The Lord show you mercy and give you Grace and salvation in Christ and a contrite heart which is to Him of great price.

I shall not send my ms. to the publisher until I either hear from yourself or until such time has elapsed after your receipt of this as shall convince me that you are unwilling to reply to what you may consider an impertinent intrusion. How happy should I be to hear that you yourself would undertake the task of controverting your own theory. I would gladly follow in your steps and initiate such an act of loneliness but at the same time of true greatness.

Believe me, dear Sir, to be yours very sincerely

Henry Wm. Soltau

Letter 80

[Charles Hitchcock to EH, 22 March 1858, EOH, Series 2-A, Box 3, Folder 18]

Deerfield March 22 – 1858

Dear Brother – I suppose you know we are trying to put up a building the ensuing season. I am fully sensible it cannot be done without the money at command to pay down. Justin improved the winter in getting lumber, stone, and brick but it must all remain unused unless we can raise a number of hundreds of dollars over what we can raise from farming – he told me you enquired of him on the question of means to do the work. I am therefore emboldened to negotiate with you on the question. We have a piece of land formerly a pasture I bought of Elijah Clary in 1842 bounded on the Pine Hook road lying a little north of Clary’s house and joining Mother’s wood lot, it is a good piece of land; several acres would make good mowing, lies as well to cultivate – and contains near an acre of much that would pay well to use for manure, the west end some over an acre is wood land, and hilly knoll has some wood and timber on it standing, but years ago I found too far to drive Cows, and suffered the thousands of pine trees to grow until it is now a forest of pines from 20 to 40 feet high over a great part of the pasture – which we consider valuable, and good property to own, their growth is rapid. Thinking it would be a good

investment, and considering my present wants I offer it to you – believing it will grow fast enough to pay the interest up to twenty five dollars the acre. I had called it thirty per acre formerly but...

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...Clary's deed to me gives twelve acres, and three fourths of an more in the whole lot. Surveyed by Uncle Elihu Hoyt – there is little patches of beech in it and last summer we kept a cow there for most of the summer, also a poor fence around it, I should like to put in a creature in a few weeks to keep down the coarse grass in the high places, repair the fence. A few years past I owned 18 acres of land in our Meadow but Deerfield river has worn near half of a five acre lot (old ferry) entirely away – and sand and gravel brought on – the South lot that side of the river had in it when bot about nine acres??? Now I should judge not over six acres – and much of this will go soon the river is so much altered in its course. I would murmur, or find fault, it is all right. But I think as a reason why we should not build here – yet I do not know what to do. Justin is a kind good boy – and a great worker – he wants a home of his own, and I wish he might have one. I believe it would be far better for us to stop where we are – sell all the real estate we have – sell all the materials we have collected for building and what personal we could spare and in the course of a year buy a farm where we might get a comfortable living away from Deerfield Street. My mind is greatly exercised on the subject – though I cannot expect to remain here as a probationer but little longer, yet I dread the thot of leaving a heavy debt on the family. If you decline buying the land could you loan us some money?

In reviewing my life, I have thought that I was too much attached to this place – that it might have been better to have gone where more land could be had – for the sums laid out here – perhaps I did not take advice enough – but my going out when 16 years old to work by the season more or less 'till I was 19 years old to pay our good Father's debts is not a service of regret to me but I think of it to this hour with satisfaction.

You will oblige by returning an answer as soon as convenient.

My health has been very good through the winter something of a cold at this time – I am sorry to learn from you that you are unwell this spring. Don't you work too hard. Respects to Orra – please give my thanks to her for the Sermon given at the funeral of Ms. Woodbridge – I will put up our folks to pay Chambs for his preaching to us. Family all well as usual except my cold and I am better this Tuesday morning. I still hope to see Your Collection of Minerals at Amherst.

Yours as ever

Chs. Hitchcock

Letter 81

[George J. Brush to EH, 17 October 1862, EOH, Series 2-A, Box 3, Folder 2]

New Haven October 17th 1862

My dear Dr. Hitchcock

Your package came yesterday for which please accept my most sincere thanks and I hope to offer you something more substantial but thanks when you visit me.

The fragments of "Treblite" were very interesting to me; in a purely chemical point of view they are the most interesting specimens I have seen for I had distinctly traced their origin triphyline or as one or two of the specs. I have found...

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...unaltered triphyline and I earnestly hope that the locality may furnish massive triphyline in abundance. It is possible you may have observed this before but I at least have never heard of the observation. I send you here a fragment of highly unaltered triphyline which came with your specimens. You see it looks a little like feldspar and might be mistaken for a variety of orthoclase, but you will find it scratches easily with the knife and fuses very easily before...

...the blowpipe giving a little reaction. Now if you can go to the locality and look up this unaltered altered triphyline I think you and I together will have rendered a real service to American mineralogists. I will test all you get and make a thorough chemical examination of the thing—besides this is a good find for you as it is a good mineral for exchange. It occurs at only two or three other localities in the world. My advice to you is to say "nothing to nobody" but when you...

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... have time to go to the locality and "bag" all you can. It is extremely likely that you may find lots of it, among the debris of your former workings, and that large masses have been researched as feldspar. Do look up the thing and let me hear from you soon.

In haste

Very sincerely your friend

George J. Brush

I am duly grateful for the Spodumene crystals, they are very good.

Letter 82

[Haidinger to EH, 27 September 1862, EOH, Series 2-A, Box 3 Folder 15]

Dornback September 27th 1862

My dear Sir

I beg leave to offer you my most sincere thanks for your two grand and beautiful volumes on the Geology of Vermont which were kindly brought over and delivered to me by our excellent friend Professor C. U. Shepard on his last visit to Europe. Well may be they be called memorials of knowledge and perseverance, and the more admirable if we reflect at the disheartening auspices in the beginning of your explorations, by the loss of so many good men. But you overcame all at last, and gave us so much more than a mere report, that many of the chapters will be considered as very ground work for the science. So the...

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...studies on the change of pebbles and rocks etc.

When good Prof. Shepard came to see me I had just left my bed after a six weeks period of confinement for ill health, but am again recovering, only—in my 68th year I cannot expect to have actual youth to return. We have been nevertheless busy also from our own side, and have completed a first exploration of Dalmatia and the Croatia military border, countries with very old names indeed and an old political history, but nearly new to science, much more so indeed, than many of your quite new sprung up states on the other side of the Atlantic. I cannot sufficiently express how we are all great at the disasters your poor country is now a prey to. We were accustomed to look up to you as a pattern of civil life. It is true, the question of slavery or no slavery is one of the grandest that ever agitated mankind and society at large, but the struggles are therefore not the less severe or painful.

In the completion of works like your report, you must find the greatest satisfaction of well intended time and labor, yourself as well as your fellow explorers Dr. Edward Hitchcock jun. and Ch. H. Hitchcock, as well as Mr. Albert D. Hagen your publisher. But it does great credit also to the state of Vermont itself, and the means provided...

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...by it for bringing out to light such beautiful volumes as these two of your report. I am the more prepared at saying so, as we too of the Austrian Imperial Geological Survey strive to get something creditable published, but well know all the difficulties we have to encounter.

And now again, my dear sir, take my most hearty thanks for that new mark of kindness.

With most kind regards

Ever most truly yours,

W. Haidinger

[In parentheses written in pencil is "Wilhelm Haidinger"]

Letter 83

[Gould to EH, 7 January 1835, EOH, Series 2-A, Box 3, Folder 14]

Boston Jan 7, 1835

Dear Sir

Your letter dated Sabbath evening did not reach me till the middle of this Wednesday PM. Your lecture was confidently expected last evening and as we had failed of having a lecture the preceding week we were very unwilling to disappoint our audience. Finding you did not make your appearance Dr. Jackson was prevailed upon to lecture for us at 10 minutes warning and we passed off the evening very well, promising that you would favor them next week unless unavoidably prevented. We shall therefore expect you and shall make no other arrangements unless it should prove impossible for you to come.

Yours in haste

A. Gould [In pencil: Augustus A. Gould]

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[Scribbled in pencil on the back of the page; these appear to be in Edward's hand and includes favorable reviews of his geological survey report, perhaps the 1833 edition]

The volume and atlas on the Geology of Massachusetts reflect great credit on the author and on the enlightened government which patronised the undertaking.

Mr. Robert Bakewell, near London, under date of July 16, 1834, writes—that Prof. Hitchcock's Geology of Massachusetts does high credit to the writer and to the government which promoted the undertaking.

Mr. De La Beche in his new work, entitled Researches on Theoretical Geology, has spoken highly of Prof. Hitchcock's Geology of Massachusetts, and has mentioned with particular approbation, his account of the boulder stones and other transported masses.

[The fourth is from a letter written by Gideon Mantell to Benjamin Silliman, reprinted in Life of Benjamin Silliman, p. 194]

The volume and atlas upon the Geology of Massachusetts reflect great credit on the author and on the enlightened government which patronized the undertaking. Gideon Martell

Letter 84

[Hallock to EH, 16 November 1837, EOH, Series 2-A, Box 3, Folder 16]

New York, Nov. 16, 1837

Rev. and Doctor,

A gentleman in the city has a fine accomplished daughter about 16 years of age who has already had the advantage of the best education which our fashionable boarding schools can give, but her father has wit enough to know that there is still a radical deficiency in her education and indeed more than one. He wants her now to be placed under a healthful moral and religious influence, and also to get acquainted with domestic economy—kitchen affairs, if you please to have me say so. He asked me whence was the best family he could select in reference to the objects named, and I...

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...very soon fix my eye on yours. Mrs. Hitchcock, you know, used to be associated with me in the instruction of Amherst Academy (please make my kind respects to her) and of course I am enough acquainted with her to know the justice of the recommendation I gave of her to the gentleman alluded to, who, by the way, is Dr. Bartlett, editor of the Albion, a tasteful English hebdomadal published in this city, which you have probably seen. He is a man of very gentlemanly feelings, and his daughter is also amiable and pretty. I think he feels more for her best interests in consequence of having not long since lost a son by consumption whom he tenderly loved. The Dr. is himself a churchman after the English model, but I presume he is aware that you are of a different order.

What I wish to ask is, whether you could be induced to return such a young lady into your family as an inmate, with a view to her instruction in those branches of education in which she is now deficient. Dr. B. would no doubt be willing to pay you liberally.

Please give me an early and a favorable answer if you can, and I will remain as ever,

Yours sincerely

Gerard Hallock

Addressed to: Rev. Professor Hitchcock, Amherst College, Amherst Mass. Return address: Gerard Hallock

Postmark: New York November 17

[Gerard Hallock was according to one source Principal of Amherst Academy 1819-1821.]

Letter 85

[Ebenezer Emmons to EH; This letter appears on <https://dinotracksdiscovery.org/supporting/swapfull/document/letter-ee-eh-July-1840/>] with this note: "courtesy of Nicholas McDonald;" McDonald is a Curatorial Affiliate, Peabody Museum, Yale University]

Albany July 22. 1840

My Dear Sir

Perhaps you will hardly thank me-when I inform you that I have forwarded the last Geol. Report for N.Y. by mail. The truth is the book is quite bulky & the postage is worth more than its contents- I fear- thus I think it a valuable report. My principal object in writing now is to inform you that Mr Vanuxem & myself propose to visit Amherst the first of October next for the purpose of seeing the lowland tracks- As it regards myself however 'tis a matter of no consequence, but I should like very much to visit you- I may not however- but Mr Vanuxem certainly will, if his health is good and will be there about the 4 inst rather than the 6th. He wishes to see the tracks in the rocks, or in plan & will expect to visit some locality----- He will probably go down Ct river & return home in that direction & I propose, if I do not go out to Amherst, to meet him in Hartford & go down to Middletown with him, but I may take the whole route. If anything will prevent your being in Amherst at the time, please write me at Albany.

Yours truly

E. Emmons

Prof. Hitchcock of A. College -----

Letters to John Torrey #86-104

Letter 86

[John Torrey to EH, 27 October 1824, EOH, Series 2-A, Box 4, Folder 8]

West Point, Oct. 27th 1824

My dear Sir

Your two favors of August 6th last and of the 4th inst. are before me. There could be no excuse for my not having answered them before but my incessant occupation since I came to this place. You have perhaps heard that I am now a Professor of Chemistry and Mineralogy in the Military Academy here. Not being very fresh in the sciences I found it necessary to review them particularly before I could teach them to others. Being now comparatively at leisure I commence answering a formidable pile of communications. Your letters were placed near the top—because I have scarcely a correspondent who is so profitable to me there...

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...from I derive so much pleasure as yourself. Really it was quite refreshing to receive another letter from you after so long as silence.

The specimens of *Ranunculus* and of *Dianthus* which you enclosed in your former letter I have examined. The former I think is a variety of *R. Cymbalaria* Pursh. It exactly resemble specimens of this plant which I collected in salt marshes on the coast of Long Island. Should it prove new, pray alter the name you intended to bestow on it. dula! acaulis is far better.

Respecting the *Dianthus* I am not so certain. It appears to be a variety of *D. armeria*—which is thus described in Decandolle's *Prodromus Systematis Naturalis Regni Veg.* I. p. 355.

[Three paragraphs in Latin, not transcribed]

The specimen of *spodumene* you sent me is without doubt correctly name. I have obtained its three fold cleavage most distinctly, and have besides examined it chemically. Can you send me a box of it soon? Tell me what Northern, especially Sparta [????] minerals you want, for I have them in abundance. Direct to Dr. J. Smyth Rogers, NY. with whom I am connected in this exchanging business.

I remain my dear Sir your friend J

John Torrey

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I much regret not having had the opportunity to see your friend Mr. Nash. I hope he will succeed. JT

The late vol. of my *Flora* is completed and published.

Prof. Torrey

Letter 87

[EH to John Torrey, from [Biodiversity.org](#) or [From the Page](#)]

New Haven July 20th 1819

Dr. John Torrey,

Sir,

Though unknown to you I presume so much upon your love of science as to enclose a specimen of a plant for your examination. It is a potentilla and I found it last year in Massachusetts and could not make it agree with any descriptions I had – though it came near pensylvanica. But I supposed I should be able to identify it when I could have access to a better library – I have however found the plant at N. Haven this year and examined it with the assistance of the books and judgement of Prof. Ives, but cannot make it agree with any species in Pursh, Michaux, Willdenow, Miller, Person, Aiton or Ives. It comes nearest P. pensylvanica – but these are enough uniform differences to constitute another species. I have not however seen a specimen of the pensylvanica – or the plate of it in Gmelin's Lib. 5, 3, and 34. Presuming you have access to both these, the specimen and the plate, and that with a glance of your eye you will be able to decide the question. Prof. Ives (who is of opinion that the enclosed is a new species) recommended to me to send you the plant. And though I little suspect it will prove a new species, yet if it be not too much trouble you will much oblige me by giving your opinion. The following is a description of the plant as I drew it up from 8 or 10 specimens. It may not be minutely accurate.

Stem erect, whole plant pubescent, most leaves pinnate, leaflets ovate, bluntish, serrulate, villose, soft, oblique, marked with lines, sessile, except the odd terminal one, which is short-petioled, sub-opposite in nines, rarely in elevens, outer ones longer, the two extreme pairs having minute leaflets at their base; cauline leaves pinnate, in fives, sevens, and nines, the uppermost lanceolate ovate deeply cleft. Flowers in a terminal paniced raceme, sub-sessile; large, uniformly white, petals oval, equaling the divisions of the calyx; large alternate divisions of the calyses...

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...lanceolate, submucronate, their points, as well as the serrations of the leaflets tipped with brownish red. Grows in light sandy soil, last of June and through July. Not very common.

This description differs from all those of P. pensylvanica that I have seen, in the following among other particulars:

1. In P. pen. The true terminal leaflets are connate and the inner alternate. In this species they are not connate but the terminal one is short petioled and the inner leaflets are mostly opposites.
2. In P. pen.

“the stems leaves are sub-digitate but pinnatifid.” 3. The flowers of *P. pen.* Are small and yellowish – In this larger and white.

I received a letter from Dr. Cooley of Deerfield Mon. in which he mentions that you would like to exchange specimens in Geology and Mineralogy with some one in that region. I would be happy to furnish you with those I have collected there if the thing be practicable. I shall probably return to Deerfield after commencement (Sept. 9th) and if I could get an opportunity to send you a box of specimens I will pack one for you. Or perhaps I shall return to spend the winter at N. Haven and in that case can forward it by a packet. Opportunities of sending directly from Deerfield to N. York are very rare – and my pursuits are of such a kind that I am unable to devote a great deal of time to collecting specimens; yet I rejoice that any time I can throw my mite into the great cause of Natural Science. Permit me to thank you for the valuable addition you have lately made to the botany of our country by your “Catalogue of the N. York Plants” and believe me I am respectfully your humble servant.

Edward Hitchcock

P. S. A line directed to me at N. Haven will find me if sent previous to Commencement.

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Letter 88

[EH to John Torrey, from Biodiversity.org or [From the Page](#)]

New Haven Nov. 25th 1819.

[Respected?] Sir,

I receive[d] your letter of last August only a few days before I left N. Haven in Sept. and on Several accounts have delayed to answer it till now. You will accept my sincere thanks for the information you give respecting the *Potentilla pennsylvanica*. I have no doubt you are correct in your explanations: but might not the descriptions of the plant in the books to be corrected? Such corrections however we who are tyros in botany shall leave to such men as yourself.

I just returned from Deerfield and have brought along a box of plants from Dr Cooley for you—and I shall forward it by the Steam boat tomorrow (Friday) evening, or next Monday. You will find 91 specimens in the box that I put there—of such species as I did not know or felt uncertain about. If however it be asking too much of you to request you to name them I hope you will neglect them as they are not in general of any great consequences. Dr Cooley has made a more extensive collection of

Cryptogamous plants than myself and indeed I found on my return to Deerfield that the worms had destroyed a great part of my collection so that I have left this department with Dr Cooley.

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and here handed to him the very few species in my collection he did not possess. Dr. C. has been indefatigable in his herborizations the past summer and is very zealous in prosecuting the Science of Botany. But he meets with discouragements in these searches among the people where he lives: They generally regard his botanical exertions as labour spent in vain and indeed they rather suspect (though I believe without any reason) for the sake of botany he neglects his professional studies and on this account are rather backward to employ him. Hence in that place I do not think he receives that support & patronage his talents & acquirements deserve. I hope you will pardon this digression—which was made very incidently.

I have put up a box of minerals for you which I was obliged to leave in Deerfield—it will probably however reach you before many weeks. My duplicate specimens I found almost exhausted & my health has been so poor this fall I could not procure more I waited however a considerable time in expectation that I should effect this; and on this account have not complied with your request to send specimens "soon". Should you think of sending me any minerals (though I fear you will not regard my specimens as of much value) you would greatly oblige me by putting up the most common petrifications and impressions with the scientific names for with this part of geology I am entirely unacquainted Will you be so good as to send to me or Dr Cooley your address? for we are frequently perplexed to determine where

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our packages should be directed & be sure of finding you.

I did not [?] your letter in Sept. till the Steam Boat conveying a package for Dr C. had returned to N. York—I made every effort on my power afterwards to find it but without success: but I believe he received it via Providence—via Boston—Dr [Ives?] promised to send you his new species of plants which you requested me to send _ I hope he has done it. It was out of my power at that time to [attend?] to it. _ The Gnaphalium decurrens is abundant in Massachusetts—and I think I have put up a specimen or two _ Dr [C?]. has also sent the Leersia lenticularis

I hope we shall be able ere long to send you a Catalogue of the plants growing in the vicinity of Deerfield _ In the mean time I would [observe?] that I have my few specimens of plants peculiar to the Middle & Southern States _ But I do not wish you to send me plants untill I can send you some of a better value – My desultory mode of living at present – the poor state of my health and a pressure of other engagements render it difficult for me to pay but very little effectual attention to Botany or Mineralogy—and I hope these considerations will afford some apology for my tardiness in replying to your letter – I shall probably be at N. Haven untill January: but I would not trouble you to write a separate letter to me on account of the plants I send. If you name them you can if you please give the list in your reply to Dr Cooley.

In much [?] your obliged humble servant Edward Hitchcock

[at left: Dr. Torrey]

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[on the page fold above the address: Edward Hitchcock Nov [?] 25, 1819 Recd. Nov. [20?]th]

[on the center fold of the page: John Torrey M.D. New York City

Your box of plants I found was sent by mistake last evening.]

Letter 89

[EH to John Torrey, from Biodiversity.org or [From the Page](#)]

15 Jan 1820 [1]

Deerfield 15th January 1820

Sir,

A box of [?] [obscured by herbarium stamp] is forwarded with this which you will please to accept _

Your letter of 6th Decr [December] was duly received and for the information contained in it you are entitled to my warmest thanks. It is not in my power at this time to send you specimens of the plants you mentioned although I have duplicates I believe, but my herbarium is several miles distant and I must send this in an hour or two. My place of residence has been so inconstant of late that I am obliged to put my specimens in natural history where they will be safe. Besides I have been too much engaged and am still in other studies as to have little time for these pursuits. Should I ever become stationary I hope to be able to attend a little more methodically to these things. I cannot tell you where I may be for some time to come: but if you wish at any time to send to me I will thank you to direct to Deerfield where I shall be occasionally.

I requested A. [Murison?] M.D. who is a [?] botanist to send you some plants and I believe

Page 2

he has done it. _ We shall wait with much interest for the appearance of your [Prodromus?]. Dr Cooley and myself have made out a catalogue of the plants growing in this vicinity—but we wait for more corrections—I hope soon to see also description and specimen of your new mineral.

I presume Dr Ives carried specimens to you of his new plants for he told me would do it. I am sorry you have so much trouble to get these _ Does Dr I_ [Ives?] suggest any doubt concerning his Asclepias?

I am quite confident that the plant I name *Neottia gracilis* is the same President [?] called a new species by this name: And yet "if this be a new species", as you observe "I have never seen any [tortilis?]". But I have never found a Specimen of this plant which had any other than ovate radical leaves.

Liatris [Scariosa?] grows in abundance along the banks of Connecticut River between [South?] [?] and N Haven.

Be pleased to accept of my best wishes for your continued Success in the pursuit of your favorite Sciences—and believe me to be your most obliged humble Servant

Edward Hitchcock

[at left: John Torrey M.D.]

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[above the address, on the upper fold of the page: Edward Hitchcock Jany. 15th 1820 ?1821.]

[on the center fold of the page above left of the address: Recd Jany. 24, 1821 Is there a mistake in the date? or had the person who [?] in the N. Y. Post-Office carried the letter in his pocket a whole year?]

John Torrey M.D. New York City]

Letter 90

[EH to John Torrey, from Biodiversity Library]

28 Apr 1820 [1]

Brattleborough (Vermont) 28th April 1820

Dr Torrey,

Sir,

I almost despair of ever being able to send you a box of minerals which I packed last fall. There is almost no business communication between this quarter of the country and N. York. And besides I am at Deerfield but a small part of the time and perhaps lose the few chances of sending that may occur. Pray have you ever given any public account of your new mineral? I shall hope to get a specimen at some

future time. We have lately discovered the Chromate of Iron in this quarter of the country. but I have not visited the locality yet I can therefore say little of it.

I enclose a drawing of the *Milium involutum* taken by Miss O. White a friend of mine—She found this grass in Amherst in abundance in May last and took the drawing then in order to get the name from some botanist.

I collect occasionally cryptogamous plants this spring and may probably trouble you with a few (such as Dr Cooley had not sent) for names. A species of *Jungermannia* now in flower grows in abundance on the hills here. I think it your nov. sp. [*noelifolia?*]: but I have no specimen for comparison with me. Very few phenogamous plants are yet in flower here.

Dr. Cooley and my self intend to forward you a Catalogue of the plants growing spontaneously in Deerfield and its vicinity in a few days—omitting however those cryptogamous ones of which he has sent specimens. Pray when will your Prodrusus appear? I feel anxious to see it. We labour under a great disadvantage in the country for want of books on botany. We are too poor to buy any of the more voluminous and valuable works.

Should you have any command please to direct a letter to Deerfield Mass. and it will soon reach me.

With feelings of [?] for your kindness to me I [subscribe?] myself your veery humble servant

Edward Hitchcock

[at lower left: John Torrey M.D.]

[crosswise in the left margin: What is the name of this Lichen or moss enclosed? It grows in dry hills among rocks in this place.]

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[on the page fold above the address: Edward Hitchcock April 28. 1820. Recd. May 1st.]

[on the center page fold; [Brattleboro?] 29 April

John Torrey M.D. N. York City]

Letter 91

[EH to John Torrey, from Biodiversity.org or From the Page]

8 Sept 1820 [1]

Deerfield 8th September 1820

Dr Torrey

Sir,

I presume once more to trouble you with some unnamed specimens of plants _ and if the task be not too great upon your liberality the names would be very acceptable. I have resided the past summer in several places along the Connecticut ^ [inserted: River] the entrances of which are about 70 miles distant and I have noticed several plants not mentioned in the catalogue. Dr Cooley and myself [not?] you _ those determined are as follows

[in a column to the left: Dalibarda fragarioides Lycopodium annotinum Oxalis acetosella Onosmodium hispidium Plantago lanceolata Lotus americana Viola papilionacea [papilionacea] ~ canadensis ~ lanceolata Fraxinus juglandifolia ~ sambucifolia Populus grandidentata]

[in a column to the right: Verbena angustifolia Galium trifidum ~ triflorum Sagittaria heterophylla Viburnum prunifolium Cymbidium verticillata Valisneria spiralis Leptanthus graminea Cichorium intibus [intybus] Carex acuta Arethusa Bulbosa Arenaria lateriflora Epipactis convallaroides [convallarioides]]

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Besides these are several others unknown which you will find among the specimens: And Dr. Cooley also has I believe discovered several new plants—How many I know not.

Accept my thanks Sir, for the pamphlet [DeAerolithis?] etc. I was gratified with the clearness and conciseness of the reasoning in opposition to many favorite theories _ and in support of that which supposes "[aerolithis?] in ipsa atmosphaera esse genitos": But I confess I feel very little confidence in any of their theories. I formerly felt much interested in this subject and the more I examined it the more I was satisfied that we have not yet facts enough to establish any [?] hypothesis.

I have but little opportunity to attend to natural history this summer—from the want of any books _ as I cannot carry any with me in my peregrinations _ What has become of the Prodrusus? I had anticipated this much.

I am in great haste and can say no more. If you should have occasion to write me please to make the direction to this place _

Your much indebted humble servant

Edward Hitchcock

[at lower left: John Torrey M.D.]

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[on the page fold above the address: Edward Hitchcock Sept 8th, 1820 Recd Oct 16th]

[on the center fold of the page: [at upper left: By Mr. Cooley]

John Torrey M.D. New York]

Letter 92

[EH to John Torrey, from Biodiversity.org or From the Page]

29 Dec 1820 [1]

Deerfield 29th December 1820

Respected Sir,

For all the valuable information contained in your letter of October 23rd you will be pleased to accept my most sincere and grateful acknowledgments. You will permit me to say merely in justice and not with a wish to flatter, that we regard your authority particularly in the cryptogamic department as the best and indeed almost the only authority this side of the Hudson: and we suspect there is none better on the other side. We therefore regard ourselves as peculiarly [fortunate?] in receiving so many valuable communications from you. As you still persist in saying that you desire me to send packages of plants as often as possible I have put up another to send by the bearer which is chiefly made up of cryptogamous plants and which I have collected the present season in the vicinity. It is probable there may be some species among these which Dr Cooley has already sent you: as I have not lately looked over his specimens. The numbers commence in this package where those in the last package terminated, beginning with No. 205 and extending to No. 327. I feel that I have no claim upon you but if your patience is not quite

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exhausted I shall hope to receive the names of the plants in this package & of those unnamed in the last _ when ever you have leisure to attend to them. I send a plant of the duplicate specimens you have requested in your letters, but am not able to forward all you wish. You enquire whether I wish any specimens of some American or European plants. These would indeed be very acceptable particularly such as grow in the vicinity of N. York. [crossed out: of] which I do not know. Many of the common mountain plants I gathered a few years since at N. Haven. And if you think I shall ever repay you I will thank you to forward some. Should you direct a package to me at Deerfield to the care of Prof. Silliman I think I should [receive?] [crossed out: them] it ere long.

The fact is with me at present and it has been so for two years back that I can do [crossed out: [best?]] very little but collect plants without making even an effort to determine them. I am a candidate for the congregational ministry and so long as I remain unsettled am compelled very frequently to itinerate and most generally cannot carry with me even an elementary work on botany. And in collecting cryptogamous plants among strangers I am obliged to use [secrecy?] and caution or they could suppose me absolutely lunatic. But there is another obstacle in the way of our botanical progress in this region.

We are most of us too poor to procure good libraries on the subject. I lately purchased Rees Cyclopaedia and the price of it was equal to just

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about all the property I had. I mention this circumstance merely to show that it is not for want of disposition that we do not possess botanical libraries. I had supposed Rees to contain descriptions of all the known plants _ but I find that under many genera he is miserably deficient. What a pity it is the American Editions did not insert complete descriptions of all the discovered plants of this country! Will you give me your opinion of this work and how far it is to be relied on.

I fear I shall not be able to forward the long ago mentioned box of minerals at this time. Indeed I despair of ever sending it.. But if you never get it your loss will be small and should would exclaim "montes frastioniunt: [nasutus?] ridiculus mus"!

Will you tell me whether the Rev. Mr S_ ("a name which nobody can speak and nobody can spell") of Charleston S. C. of whom you made frequent mention, is the man who in conjunction with Albertini published in Europe the "Conspectus Fungorum [in?] Lusatiae Superioris etc. _ I have not seen that work nor do I know when it as printed: but the name (Schweiniz) looks to me somewhat like the one you write and I feel an interest to know where this gentleman obtained his so accurate knowledge of Fungi.

Scirpus subsquarrosus is not very abundant: it grows on the banks of Connecticut river more particularly in Long Meadows in conjunction with Cyperus uncinatus [Gialioter anua?] Poa septans (in immense quantities) and Scirpus autumnalis. And it happens that I am able to send you a number of specimens: But I should not have suspected it to be S. subsquarrosus from Muhlenburg's discription_ Poa aquatica is not abundant & I cannot send any specimens at present.

Permit me to [subscribe?] myself your much indebted humble servant

Edward Hitchcock

{at lower left; J. Torrey MD.}

[at bottom below the signature: I hope ere long to see the Prodomus announced and calculate much upon the pleasure of reading it.

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[at top right of the page fold above the address: Edward Hitchcock Dec 24th, 1820 Recd Jany 24 1821]

[On the center fold of the page: John Torrey M.D. To the care of Dr Mitchill New York.]

Letter 93

[EH to John Torrey, from Biodiversity.org or From the Page]

3 Nov 1822 [1]

Conway 3rd Nov, 1822.

My Dear Sir,

I have neglected to acknowledge the receipt of your very valuable letter of May last because I thought you might be absent from N. York on account of the fever & because I have been as much occupied as a feeble state of health would permit me to be That letter was indeed a valuable acquisition to my knowledge of our cryptogamia _ & I return you many thanks for your kindness in naming so many specimens- The specimens of [Sphaeria?]-S. [cuniratrix?] Schw. is abundant [?] on rocks _ or the [crossed out: [light one?]] thin soil on rocks [?] think I can find the locality again without difficulty & if I mistake not I have somewhere among my arranged duplicates a considerable quantity of it so that if you wish I will send you some. The nov. sp. of Boletus—B. delicatulus Schw is [?]. I have but few specimens & it is doubtful whether I can find more.

The [paintings?] reached me safely & I thank you for the [corrections?] of the ^ [inserted: naming of the] phenogamous plants. There were some marks such as X attached to some species that I did not understand and which led me to suspect that you had forwarded a letter with them & that it is lost. And you mentioned also in your last letter that you should send a letter with the paintings. I shall regret if it is lost. I have had [Persoon?] the past summer & though I have found little time to attend to the subject yet I find the [book?]

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much better than any thing I had before. I find many new genera such as Geastum, Fuligo, Scleroderma, [?] Leotia etc. the latter a curious species growing in clusters on the top of a decaying agaricus. As to the Agarics I despair of finding them out. Some genera I cannot determine. I enclose a specimen of one I found a day or two since among the decaying chips in a wood yard about 4 or 6 inches below the surface. When first dug it resembles exactly in colour & form the roots of [Comallaria?] multi -flora . having however more fibres. On exposure to the air it becomes reddish. The substance of the fungus looked precisely like ^ [inserted: the meat of] a green chestnut. [remainder of line crossed out] although less hard. & the center of it contains a small proportion of jelly. It is not possible I think that it should be a sphaeria! nor can I refer it more satisfactorily to a Sclerotium.

I have collected the past summer more [word missing, page torn: [than?]] fifty specimens of the little Botrychium of [word missing, page torn] you formerly [?] specimens _ And I have [page torn, word illegible] any doubt but it is a new species to which I take the liberty of proposing the name B. simplex. The [frond?] is always simple & usually 3[?] or 3 lobed. And this appears to be its chief distinction from all other species of Botrychia_ So confident am I that it is a nov. sp. that I have thought of sending a drawing of it to the Am. Journal of Science.

I have a hundred specimens or more of cryptogamia which I wish to send you now but really have not time to put them up. I have been exceedingly occupied for 6 months past with a geological map & memoirs of the [?] It extends from N. Haven to Bellows Falls N. Hampshire ^ [inserted: 150 miles long

and] about 30 miles wide and has 15 different rocks [coloured?] on it. I exhibited it to the Geological Society in September & it will appear soon I trust in the Am. Journal of Science.

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Dr Cooley & myself think of offering to the Journal of Science a mere list of the plants found in this vicinity in which we shall acknowledge our very great obligations to yourself.

Mr Nuttall is lecturing on botany in this vicinity but I have scarcely seen him. He is much engaged in mineralogy.

I have recently found a new locality of the new fungus discovered by Dr Cooley & named by Schweinitz *Gyropodium coccineum*. The physiology of this plant is wonderful—more so than any thing I have met with in the cryptogamic department of botany. I have a drawing in explanation of it ^ [inserted: and] am almost induced to offer it to the Journal of Science, merely to explain the economy of the thing & not to attempt a scientific description.

Yours respectfully & sincerely.

Edward Hitchcock

[at bottom left, page torn: [John?] Torrey M.D.]

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[on the upper fold of the page above the address: Edward Hitchcock Nov. 3rd 1820 Recd Nov. 22nd]

[on the center fold of the page:

[at upper left of address: By Rev. L. Fisher.]

John Torrey M.D. New York.

Please to leave this at the Post Office in New York or in the care of Dr Mitchell -]

Letter 94

[EH to John Torrey, from Biodiversity.org or From the Page]

6 Aug 1824 [1]

Conway 6th August

Dear Sir,

I have neglected more than a year to write to you, because, through a pressure of duties & ill health, I have done so little in natural history, that I had nothing worth communicating. Your last letter contained a great deal of very acceptable information: but, if I mistake not, I have already acknowledged receipt.

I am happy to perceive that you are progressing in your researches into the mineral & vegetable kingdoms, and especially that your valuable Flora is coming out. After the dabbling of many who have preceeded you, it is really refreshing to find something on which one can depend. It must be a work of great labour, and I do not see why it will not completely take the place of Pursh, Michaux, Eaton, & even Nuttall.

I enclose specimens of what I suppose to be two [new?] species—one of Ranunculus—the other of Dianthus. To the former, I have for the present given the specific name acaulis; although I believe there is one other stemless Ranunculus. I found it more than a year ago, on the island of Martha's vineyard; but have not hitherto had time to describe it. The Dianthus, also I suppose to be new, although I have not a perfect monograph of the genus. I found it last October, among the white cedar, on a ridge of [?] [tuff?] in Northampton—where it is unquestionably indigenous. I intend this year, if possible, to visit the locality earlier in the season. I have not yet selected a specific name for it, from a little remaining doubt whether it is new. Should it prove new, I have had it in mind to attach to it, Sillimanea, and to the Ranunculus, Ives; in honor of Professors Silliman & Ives. Would such a course be very objectionable? As I cannot have access ^ [inserted: at present] to a full description of all things of Dianthus, you would much oblige me by giving me your opinion concerning what I send, although the specimen is poor, on account of not being well preserved.

You asked me for an account of some curious features in the physiology of the Gyropodium: But it is impossible for me to describe them without a drawing, which I am not able to send at this time. The circumstance to which I mainly alluded, was the very curious manner in which this plant throws out its powder (seeds) from the bag which contains

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it. I hope this summer to visit a new locality of this plant, which I discovered a year or two since, when I hope to verify my former observations upon it.

I have done very little the past year in natural History, except to read some of the modern European publications & write a review or two of Conybeare & Phillips Geology of England & of Bucklands Reliquiae Diluvianae _ Nor shall I be able to do much in my present situation, if my health is not better. I rejoice however in learning what others are doing in bringing to light the [arcana?] of nature.

Respectfully [?] your freind & servant

Edward Hitchcock

[at lower left: J Torrey M.D.]

[on the upper fold of the page above the address; Edward Hitchcock Augt 6th 1824. Rec.d Sept. 8th -]

[on the center fold of the page: [?] Octr 27th 1824

John Torrey M.D. New York

[lower left of address: By Mr Dickinson]]

Letter 95

[EH to John Torrey, from Biodiversity.org or From the Page]

24 Dec 1825 [1]

Amherst Dec. 24th 1825.

Dear Sir,

One year ago I forwarded to you by way of Hartford a box of minerals containing 60 or 80 specimens. But as I have heard nothing from them since & some other boxes sent at the same time were long delayed I have been suspicious that yours might be lost. Please let me know if it is & I will look it up.

I have recently visited the localities of scapolite petalite [mach filiolute?] cinnamon stone etc. in the eastern part of this state & have on hand good specimens of these minerals. These I could send you if it would be pleasant to you to exchange. I need not be particular as to the things I want as I believe you already are acquainted with my deficiencies in mineralogy & geology

I had calculated to spend a few weeks in New York the present vacation: but circumstances are such that I shall probably be prevented. I wish much to be there during the season of lecturing that I might learn something.

I lately found associated with the [Spoelumene?] etc. of Goshen a well characterized crystal of the oxide of Tin. I have reduced it & tested the metal immediately by a variety of reagents so as to leave no doubt as to its nature. But I can find no more at the locality.

With respect yours truly

Edward Hitchcock

[on the upper fold of the page above the address: Edward Hitchcock Dec.r 24th 1828. [?]]

[on the center fold of the page: By Mr Johnson

Professor John Torrey New York City]

62,69,70 Gynandria (Orchis) with dissections 71, 72, 73 Gynand. Polyand. (English [Areca?]) ^ [inserted: with] flowers & fruit. 74 [Syng?]. Polygamia Necenania (Silphium) 75, 86, 77, 78 Dioecia diandria—flowers of the willow with the dissections 79,80,81,82,83 Monoecia polyandria—flowers of Conylus with dissections 84,85 Polygamia Monocia—flowers of the Pellitory dissected. 88, 89, 90 [?] Grioecia flowers & fruit of the fig. (Ficus) 86, 87 Dioecia Drandira _ Male & female plant of Valisneria with flowers 91,92,93 Cryptogamia filices—(Polypodium, upper & under side 94 Do—Do—(Lygodium) 95, 96, 97, 98.

Do—Do—(Asplenium) with dissections of the capsule 99 _____ Do _____ Do. Gonopterides (equisetum) 106__Do__Do_ Stachypterides (lycopodium) 107__Do__Do_ Schismatopterides (osmunda) 103__Do__Musci. Bryum undulatum 100, 101, 102 Dissections of 103 showing the calyptra, operculum, teeth and capsule 108 Hypnum capsule, teeth & seeds. 109, 110 Teeth of the same. 111 Polytrichum commune 112, 215 A female flower of the same 114—Do of Mnium horneum 113 Mnium androgynum with sphaerophylli 104, 105 brypt. Hepaticae (Jungermannia) 121__do. Algae (Fucus) 118,119, 120 _ Do. Lichenes (Usnia & Genomyce & Parmelia 116__Do. Fungi (Agaricus) 117_Do. Do_ (Geastrum) 122_Do_Do_ (Gynopodium)

You will see that the Nos do not always preceed one another in regular order: they however would be remedied on a new set of drawings. I think also it would be best to use at least six sheets of drawing paper as some part of mine are too much crowded.

1825 [2]

List of enlarged Botanical Drawings executed by [Mrs?] H. in 1825

No 1 to 22 Illustrate the Linnaean Classes from Monad. to Polyand. & the Orders from Monogyn. to Enneagynia _ the plants from which they were taken I do not know

No 23 Didynamia _ [?] flowers No. 24 the same dissected. 25 Didynamia _ [?] flowers -(snap dragon) 26 Order Polygynia 27 Didynamia Gymniospermia 28 Front view of No. 23 29 & 30 Dissections of No 25. 31 Didynamia—Angiospermia 32 Getradynamia _ Silignosa 33 & 35 Cruoform flowers 35 Getradynamia 36 ~Do- Liliculosa 37 Monadelphia 38 dissection of No 37. 39 Diapelphia (Lathyms?) 32 the same dissected showing the wings standard & kell. 41 Showing the double calyx of No 37. 40 Dissection of No. 37 showing the calyx & pistils 43 Polyadelphia (Hypericum) 45 stamen of the same 44 Flowers of No 43 unopened—rather neat but I should think not of much use. 46, 47, 52 & 53 Althaca with dissections 48, 49, 50, 51 Syngenesia _ the Dandelion with dissections 45, 55, 56 Syng. Polygamis superflua (Erigeron) with separate florets 57, 58, [crossed out: 59] 63 Syng. Polyg. frustanea (Sunflower) with florets 59, 60, [crossed out: 61] Syng. Polyg. equalis (Cichorium) & florets 64, 65, [crossed out: 62, 63], 66 Syng, Polyg. segregata (Globe Thistle) with florets 61, 62 Syng. Polygam. Monogamic (Lobelai) & dissection 67 Syng. Polygamia frustanea (Rudbeckia) Rather pretty but not esential.

[at margin top left: No 9]

Letter 96

[EH to John Torrey, from Biodiversity.org or From the Page]

Amherst July 5th 1827.

Dear Sir,

Young Johnstone says he was at the wharf on the day in which you were to send the box of minerals by the Philadelphia & was particular in his enquiries but heard of none. He has recently had a letter from Newbergh [Newburgh?] but no intelligence concerning the minerals: so that probably the box is lost. However, it is not your fault. I consider the loss as mine & do not expect you will pack another as a substitute.

I suppose ere this you are elected to the professorship in N. York as I perceive by the papers the appointment was to take place on the 2nd instant. I shall be happy to send you such minerals as I have to spare _ You know I believe chiefly what they are. When I have heard where to direct the box I will pack one.

Mrs H. has drawn on the first page a species of Malaxis which I have concluded to be a new one. It was found on Mount Holyoke in an excursion I took the other day with my class in botany. It comes nearest *M. lilliifolia* [lilliifolia?] I believe. I think the drawing however which is very correct will satisfy you that it cannot be referred to that species. I have attempted to state most of the differences I have observed between the two species on the opposite page though I have not yet had time to make out a satisfactory description. My object in sending this drawing to you is to request your opinion upon the species. I should be very glad to find it to be new & to publish it in the next No of the Journal two species on the opposite page though I

[on the top fold of the page above the address: of science in the hope of exciting more zeal in natural history among the students here. I have almost every discouragement to contend with from being obliged to begin every thing de nova. If the species be new would *M. Holyokea* be an objectionable name? It occurs within a few rods of the spot on the mountain so much distinguished for the beauty & grandeur of its prospect _ My plan would be to gain a drawing of *M. lilliifolia* by the side of this species that botanists might judge between them. If I am mistaken however you will confer a very great favour by setting me right: as I shall depend on your opinion—If you can consistently send me a line on the subject within a few days I shall feel much indebted to you.

Yours sincerely Edward Hitchcock]

[on the center fold of the page: Professor John Torrey West Point New York]

[on the side center fold of the page to the left of the address: E. Hitchcock July 5th [?] Recd. July 9th [?]. July com-]

[on the lower fold of the page below the address: I found also the other day on Mt Holyoke a remarkable species of *Orobanche* which agrees with all the descriptions I possess of *O. americana* though I have never seen that species. I have numerous duplicates. Some of the stems ar [are] $\frac{3}{4}$ of an inch diameter.]

Letter 97

[EH to John Torrey, from Biodiversity.org or From the Page]

Amherst May 29th 1829

Dear Sir,

As you express a wish to get a copy of my enlarged botanical drawings I made the enquiry of Mrs. Hitchcock whether she could make any arrangement for painting them. She thinks that in the early part of the present summer she might so arrange the affairs of her family as to accomplish this object if sickness should not prevent. The drawings are contained upon five sheets of paper 2 ft 8 inches by 2 ft 6 inches attached to cloth varnished etc. They are calculated for illustrating all of the original Classes & Orders of the Linnean System & the number of figures is 111. As to compensation Mrs. H thinks she could do them in the same style as my own for something like forty dollars—certainly not higher than this & perhaps for less. It is not an undertaking which she seeks but if you have any wish that she should do it you will oblige her by letting her know of it immediately.

I want to trouble you with about ten minutes work at your Lyceum rooms. I accidentally omitted to copy the thickness of the different rock strata on Mr Featherstonhaugh's large profile which lies over the door of your mineral room. and I have no work in my possession that gives them all. I want the thickness of those in the Submedial & Inferior Orders ^ [inserted: only] that I may make a similar sketch for my lectures and if you can send me the numbers conveniently I shall be thankful.

I went yesterday to the habitat of the [Tussilago?] gralmata [farfara?], but find it nearly destitute of the plant. Only a single specimen had flowered the present year I did not see more than 20 or 30 of the plants. It is in a dark evergreen swamp and as the trees are cut down the plant disappears. I shall try to cultivate it but probably shall fail.

Respectfully yours

Edward Hitchcock

[on the page fold above the address: Ed. Hitchcock May 29th 1829 -]

[on the center page fold; Amherst MS. June 1

Professor John Torrey M.D. New York City]

Letter 98

[EH to John Torrey, from Biodiversity.org or From the Page]

Amherst 20th October 1829.

Dear Sir,

Your letter of the 26th ult. was duly received & for it I thank you. I am sorry you had the trouble of copying that section of rocks as I had an opportunity of getting [crossed out: them] what I wanted soon after I wrote you by a young gentleman of our College who went to N. York. My wife made a section about 10 feet long from alluvium to granite with a view of the principal divisions of the rocks attached to the side & I used it last [?] to advantage in my lectures.

I will adjoin a list of the botanical drawings agreeable to your request. I think you will wish some alterations omissions & additions—certainly I should—I copied them mostly from those of Dr Ives. Mrs H. could probably paint them by the middle of February should you wish & the health of our family continues good. Whenever she sets about it she will calculate to devote most of her time to it. As to a compensation I think it ought not to exceed \$40 & perhaps it might be less. We regret that poverty does not permit us to say at once that it is a present. Mrs H. does not wish to undertake it in the hope of pecuniary profit but she would be happy to do it for you: though it is possible she may find it impracticable with so many family cares on her hands.

I apprehend you will prove a false prophet in respect to a monograph of the solidagoes & asters from me. I have no expectation of ever being able to do so much in botany as that: I directed my attention a little to these genera this autumn chiefly to give more interest to my botanical excursions. I have done little more however than to collect most of the species growing in this neighborhood_ a miserable state of health having prevented my studying them much. Perhaps I may furnish some assistance to a future monographist.

Prof. Hovey formerly of Williams College now fills the same station here: And he wishes me to enquire of you whether you can direct him where and on what terms he can get a good Air Pump. Are they made in N. York? Do you know of any second hand one not injured?

I lately for one of the [Marcets?] instruments for showing the phenomena of high steam from B. Pike in Wall Street N. York & there is such a defect in the instrument as defies all the efforts I have yet made to make hold steam. Is not Pike an honorable dealer? I mean one that can be depended upon?

That article in the Christian Spectator was prepared in great haste. The review in the last April No. of the N. American Review I think you will say is a more philosophical view of the subject.

If you decide to have the drawings undertaken I hope you will let me know as we should probably have to send to Boston for paper of the requisite size_

Can you direct me to a man in N. York who could procure for me from the instrument makers in Paris a model balloon? The students of my chemical class think of sending for one to be kept for occasional use. I perceive by a catalogue recently received that they are [?] in Paris.

Excuse my numerous enquiries & believe me truly & respectfully yours

Edward Hitchcock

P.S. I shall try to send the plants or books which I borrowed of you or both by the Gentleman who takes this letter but may be disappointed.

[on the upper fold of the page above the address: Prof. Hitchcock Oct 20th 1829 [?]]

By [Revd?]. A. Dickinson

Prof. John Torrey New York

Letter 99

[EH to John Torrey, from Biodiversity.org or From the Page]

27 Mar 1834 [1]

[at upper left: Recd. Apr 21.1 1834 [?] [verbally?]]

Amherst March 27th 1834

Dear Sir,

Your obliging letter of February 6th was duly received but poor health & full hands have prevented an earlier reply.

I am obliged to you for your favorable opinion as to the Report. I am aware that its deficiencies are great & its errors not few: But I did what I could under the circumstances in which I was placed & this consciousness will sustain me I hope under the reviewer's assaults should they come thicker upon me _ The Legislature have recently ordered a second edition to be printed and the work is already commenced. This will give me an opportunity to make corrections & additions though they will not allow me time & means to do this as thoroughly as I could wish _ I fear this undertaking will prevent my forwarding to you as soon as is desirable the specimens of plants which you wish Some of them I have among my duplicates: but these have not been looked over since I commenced my geological labours nearly four years ago & I know not in what state they may be _ Besides my health since last summer has been extremely feeble so as entirely to prevent all extra effort

I am trying [~~crossed out: hard~~] to get along with my course of chemical lectures but it is hard work. A considerable number of the grasses desired by Dr Gray I believe I have on hand: but others I must collect _ This I will do as soon as it is in my power. I fear I will not get any subscribers for his [book?] except myself. I mean to have it if its cost do not exceed my resources: but as I hope to come to N. York in the early part of May I will delay entering my name till that time. There is scarcely any taste for natural history in this part of the country among those who have any depth of purse and our College is so poor that I cannot get the Trustees to purchase many books.

I did not receive your pamphlet giving reasons for resigning your place in the N. Y. University: but I [page torn, word lost] one sent to Dr Humphrey & read it with great [interest?]. It is one of the most extraordinary disclosures of imbecility & folly to use no harder words than I ever met with in the head of

a University—or even a district school. There was certainly but one course for you & your fellow labourers to adopt consistently with maintaining your characters.

In disposing of the copies of my Report which belonged to me (I had no pecuniary interest in the printing) I felt bound to remember first those societies of which I was a member & then I wanted to send a few to Europe: so that before I got as far as N. York Lyceum my stock was so much reduced that I could not do as I wished by presenting a copy to its library. Our Legislature did not order any copies to be presented to learned societies out of the state: yet I think I

[3]

can get one for your Lyceum either the first or second edition. I should prefer to delay the application till the second edition is completed when I promise to attend to it if alive.

Have you got Ampere's great Electro-Dynamic apparatus? I have it but by mistake no description was sent with it & I find myself greatly troubled to use it. If you have a description more recent than that inserted in the 26th volume of the Annals de Chemie [?] & are willing to lend it me for a few weeks I shall be greatly obliged to you if you will send it to me by mail or otherwise.

The bearer is Mr Nathan Belcher a graduate of our College & my former assistant in chemistry. He goes to reside in N. York & would be very glad to have opportunity to give some attention to natural history. He has quite a taste for this subject & I think bids fair to do something for it if he preserves in attention to it under favorable circumstances. He is very modest & amiable.

[Pro.?] Hovey has been obliged to resign his place here in account of his health—and I fear he may never be able to fill a professorship on this account.

Truly and sincerely yours

Edward Hitchcock

P.S. I have concluded upon this whole to spare a copy of my Report for the N. Y. Lyceum & beg you to present it when you think proper.

By Mr Belcher.

Professor John Torrey New York City

Letter 100

[EH to John Torrey, from Biodiversity.org or From the Page]

Amherst Dec. 16th 1836

[inserted at left: [Arvd?]. [?] in N.Y. Jany. 16th 1837.]

Dear Sir,

I did not intend by the suggestions I made in my last letter respecting the [casts?] & the lecture to lead you to be at so much trouble as you have been I merely meant that if you should have occasion to write me ere long you might express your opinion as to those two things. When I wrote I did not know what I have since learnt from Prof. Silliman that he is going to N. York to lecture on geology in January. If I go there it must be during the same month for our vacation commences on the 11th & closes on the 25th & I cannot go beyond those limits many days one way or the other. I suppose this fact settles the question as to my lecturing on the bird tracks At least I see no way in which it can be done I should be willing to give an account of all that I know on the subject if there were any opportunity & it should be thought that a lecture might be ventured on such a subject. It would be difficult however to get my large specimens conveyed to N. York now that I must probably come all the way by land: yet I could bring specimens that are very distinct: and I have large drawings of all the species.

Prof. Silliman kindly offered to aid me in getting liberty for me to examine bird-feet & take casts of them at some of the museums in N. York & I have requested him to make enquiry before he goes on. If he gets permission say at the American Museum I have made up my mind to come on (D.[?].) at the time mentioned alone: especially since you inform me that probably I might get casts of the feet of some living birds. I shall also hope to get liberty to examine your copy of Bucklands work. Since I last wrote to you I have found at Springfield one or two poor specimens of the singular footmark which you suggest may be his Chenotherium. Is that a biped genus? I believe all those are which I have discovered

I am glad to learn that Mr Cooper is not yet decided as to the footmarks. From his letter I was led to infer that he had decided a priori that they could not be bird tracks or that ^ [inserted: he feared] I should [serve?] him as Eaton did in respect to his vegetable crotalus. I blame no man for delaying to form an opinion on this subject. I did so myself till forced by the facts to adopt certain conclusions.

My supplemental paper on the [Ornithichnites?] is not to appear in the January No. of the Journal of Science. My hope is to get some sketches from the casts which I may obtain in N. York that they may be ^ [inserted: inserted in my paper and] compared with those which I shall give of the fossil footmarks.

Respectfully & sincerely yours

Edward Hitchcock

Prof. John Torrey New York City

[below the address of this torn page is a partial image of the bottom of a previously transcribed page, therefore not transcribed here]

Letter 101

[EH to John Torrey, from Biodiversity.org or From the Page]

Amherst Oct. 28th 1848

Dear Sir,

I am very happy to send the enclosed though I fear that my opinion will not weigh much in your favour.

I am glad to learn that you mean hereafter to make N. York your permanent residence. When I have been there once or twice within a few years I could not find you upon enquiry.

I have thought it doubtful of late whether you were ever informed that the Trustees of Amherst College conferred on you the honorary degree of Doctor of Laws. I left it for the Secretary to write you but learnt of [afterwards?] that he had not been in the habit of doing it. It was conferred in 1845 & your name has now been upon our [?] Catalogue for three years with that tittle. It should have been done by some older College I know: but since it was not we wanted to offer it as a [?] of respect to your merits.

A few weeks ago I sent by a young man several pamphlets relating to our College. Providence has indeed smiled upon us of late especially in the department of Nat. History But we have had a hard struggle to go through

[on the top fold of the page above the address: In consequence of my poor health & constant pressure of other duties I have been obliged to abandon almost entirely my scientific plans. But I do not think it will leave the world in total darkness though it deprives me of a great deal of happiness.

In the hope that you may be successful in your application, I remain in much haste—Respectfully & sincerely yours

Edward Hitchcock]

[on the center fold of the page: Prof. John Torrey New York City]

[on the left fold of the page opposite the address: [Prof?] Hitchcock]

Prof. Hitchcock

Letter 102

[EH to John Torrey, from Biodiversity.org or From the Page]

27 Nov 1833 [1]

[at upper left: [?]. Feby 6th]

Amherst Nov. 27th 1833

Dear Sir,

Please to accept a copy of my Report which I forward by the bearer and also my hearty thanks for your kindness in examining the Catalogue of Plants. I regret that some mistakes have occurred in it in consequence of my sickness while it was going through the press. The most [importunate?] is the insertion in a part of it of those parallel lines which you placed against such species as you wished me to send you! There was no alternative _ the printers must go on to fulfil their engagements to the Government & I was compelled to leave on account of my health. The gentleman who examined the proof thought it safe to follow all your corrections & so put in the parallel lines!

I am directed by Governor Lincoln to express to you his sense of obligation, for the kind assistance you have rendered in this matter.

In haste your friend & servant

Edward Hitchcock

Edward's references to his poor health in John Torrey letters:

New Haven Nov. 25th 1819. my health has been so poor this fall

My desultory mode of living at present _ the poor state of my health

Conway 3rd Nov, 1822. I have been as much occupied as a feeble state of health would permit me to be

Conway 6th August 1824 pressure of duties & ill health

Nor shall I be able to do much in my present situation, if my health is not better.

20 Oct 1829 _ a miserable state of health having prevented my studying them much

Amherst Nov. 27th 1833 I regret that some mistakes have occurred in it in consequence of my sickness while it was going through the press. I was compelled to leave on account of my health

Amherst March 27th 1834 but poor health & full hands have prevented an earlier reply. Besides my health since last summer has been extremely feeble so as entirely to prevent all extra effort

28 Oct 1848 In consequence of my poor health & constant pressure of other duties I have been obliged to abandon almost entirely my scientific plans.

Letter 103

[EH to John Torrey, 18 December 1821 (photocopy), EOH, Series 2-B, Box 5, Folder 24]

Conway 18th December 1821

Dear Sir,

Your very valuable letter of Nov. 3d was duly received: But the one you mention as having been sent a few weeks previous to that time has never reached me – which I very much regret and can hardly conceive why I have not received it – since it seems hardly possible for a letter to miscarry finally between this place & N. York – I had hoped that letter would contain an opinion concerning or two unknown minerals which I sent you and also some account of the long expected Prodomers which from some statements I have seen in the N. A. Review I have suspected to be charging to a Flora – However I

ought not to complain since the letter I have received is so valuable containing much information which I can obtain of no one else. I feel Sir under much obligation to you for your kindness and I shall be very glad to forward you all the cryptogamous plants I can collect even if I get half of them named – I have waited several weeks since receiving your letter hoping for an opportunity to forward a box to you along with the drawings of Fungi etc. but direct communication between this section of the country and N. York is very rare and I have little hope of getting an opportunity to send before January as you requested and perhaps not this winter – I have perhaps an hundred or 150 specimens of cryptogamia collected the last year which I have not sent you and although the last summer was very unfavorable to the growth of Fungi &...

Page 2

...my time was extremely occupied yet I obtained paintings of 120 species – among which are nearly 50 Agarici – 10 Bolete – 5 or 6 merulia – 8 Pezizas – 3 Helvella – several Hydna – several Clavaria – Genomylas – Geoglossa – Tremullae – 3 Lycopenda – Marisma – Phallus – Amanita & two or three unknown genera – Most of these are well painted and I have generally given a short description though probably imperfect. Few of the species are determined – I have not Persoon and you know Rees Cyc. Is imperfect in this department. I feel anxious to have you see them.

I found a little fern last summer near my house which I could not help referring to Botrychium lunaria Willd. as described by Smith in his excellent view of this genus in Rees Cyc. Addenda – Though the B. lunaria is there said to have a pinnate frond whereas our specimen is always pinnatifid or three lobed. Dr. Cooley tells me he sent you a specimen which though you were of the opinion it was B. lunaria W. or a new species yet you enquired whether it might not be a depauperate specimen of B. fumaroides Wild. I have never seen any specimens intermediate between this and B. fuma. And besides the B. lunaria is in fruit and disappears two months before the B. fumaroides. It grows in dry pastures and though rare yet I think I have seen fifty specimens and there is very little deviance in their appearance. A severe drought last summer destroyed the plants before I saved many specimens yet I succeeded in getting a tolerably good drawing – It is never more than 4 inches high.

I thank you for mentioning my conchological request to Mr. D. H. Barnes – though I have but few specimens of shells and know of no method of obtaining more. I have not written him yet – but mean to do it ere many days though I can not decide from your letter whether the name be Baines...

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...or Barnes.

I suppose Professor Fries Systema Mycologicum is not yet received in this country – Be so good as to inform me for what price I can obtain in N. York Persoon's Synopsis Fungorum and also Scharius' Lichenographia? Persoon at N. Haven unbound is \$4.50 cash. If I live another summer I must have these works.

I shall watch every opportunity to forward you a box of cryptogamous plants and also the paintings – And may I Sir hope to receive the names of those already sent and yet unnamed as fast as you ascertain them?

Pray Sir – what is the character of the work on the North American Cryptogamous plants proposed by Dr. Schweinitz? And on what terms is it coming?

With much respect

I remain

Your obliged humble

Servant

Edward Hitchcock

Page 4 (Envelope)

Edward Hitchcock

Dec. 18th 1821

Recd. Jan 18 1822

E. Hampton Paid

Dec 27

John Torrey M. D.

New York

City

Letter 104

[EH to John Torrey, 18 December 1821, 4 June 1835, EOH, Series 2-B, Box 5, Folder 24]

Amherst June 4th 1835 and Feby 12th 1836

Dear Sir,

I rejoice that such a botanical phalanx is early in the field this year and I anticipate many important victories none the less important because they will be bloodless. I would fain enter the ranks as a private soldier for I still love botany. But I am discouraged – for I am constantly borne down with other labours I have to lecture here on Chemistry, Mineralogy, Botany, Galvanism, and Natural Theology – Also a weekly exercise in the bible and am called to preach nearly every sabbath as well as frequently on other days. This summer in addition to these duties I am the locum tenens of the President and have all the drudgery of overseeing and managing more than 200 young men. And for several years past my labours have scarcely been less. No where is there any room for botany or indeed for doing anything else to much purpose. Circumstances have led me for several years past to direct my principal efforts to geology though as the second edition of my Report is now...

Page 2

...published I am not quite as much pressed in that quarter – I shall do all in my power to get you some plants (which you have designated) this summer but do not calculate much upon me for the reasons which I have mentioned. Of that Rhynchospora although the first year that I found it it covered an acre or two I could find the next year only one or two specimens! What did that mean? I mean to watch it this season.

I rejoice that you and Dr. Gray are pushing your researches forward so successfully. I have not been able to get any subscribers to his work nor have I obtained it myself though I wish to become a subscriber. I cannot persuade our College to give any thing for natural history; and the reason is a good one. They have nothing to give. I am obliged with my small salary to procure my own books and specimens.

Dr. Alexander of Florida wrote me a few weeks since that he had sent you a packet of plants from that region and that he had forwarded a package for me to your care. If you receive it please to retain it until I can send for it. And if you have looked over those tropical ferns which I left with you last year I will thank you to let them come with Mr. Alexander's package.

By all means go on with that Flora...

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...of North America – and relieve instructors from the necessity of recommending quickish botanical works to their classes – Is any body taking hold of American Algae?

I never met with that scirpus in the southeast part of Massachusetts. When I commenced my geological survey I undertook to collect plants as well as rocks: but I found it too much and gave up all for the rocks.

I have been absent for the month of May or I should have replied earlier to your letter for which I thank you. Because I had done nothing on the subject for so long a time (and but very little at any time), I had supposed myself entirely forgotten by all genuine botanists.

Your sincere friend

Edward Hitchcock

Page 4 (Envelope)

Amherst Mass.

June 4

Professor John Torrey

New York

City

Letter 105

[OW to unknown, 6 July 1816, EOH, Series 10-B, Box 25, Folder 20]

July 6, 1816

My ideas about the preacher I believe are much the same as your own, except that I was not so much disappointed perhaps, because I did not anticipate so much. The man was a stranger to me, but I suspected his liberality in sentiment – therefore I went expecting to hear morality rather than divinity – but these were so small a share of the latter that sometimes I almost forgot I was in the house of God with the view of worshiping him there. I thought he was laboring to please the ears of the people with his eloquent language rather than Him who requires the only sacrifice of a broken heart and an humble contrite spirit. What must be the effect of such preaching upon the minds of many of our people. It appears to me that the words of such a venerable old philosopher will have great influence. With you, I think our glorious Saviour was not honored, but much slighted and disregarded.

Our Parson's discourse this afternoon (Friday) I hardly knew what to make of. I did not feel that satisfaction I could wish, for some reason or other – whether it is a want of penetration or because my feelings are so dull and languid that I cannot enjoy preaching so well – or whatever other cause I know not.

Your 2nd number was a very acceptable one, though you have heard nothing from it. So great is the danger of deception that I feel I have need of many such things.

I lament that I cannot see more of you this summer and the very small part of time which I can get to write is not sufficient for me to produce anything worthy of your attention.

Letter 106

[John Bigelow to EH, 22 April 1817(19?), EOH, Series 2-A, Box 3, Folder 1]

Boston April 22, 1817(9?)

Dear sir

Your letter of 16th is just received. The *Holcus odoratus* flowers about May 10 – 20 in wet grounds, edges of meadows, etc. A specimen is enclosed. A dissection showing the calyx, corolla, stamens and styles, separated, will be acceptable when perfectly convenient. Your report to a list of plants in Deerfield lately sent to me. I have not received any such list and doubt not that it must have miscarried. If you will inform me by when it was sent, I shall probably be able to look it up. To the list of plants

which I have requested Miss White to paint, I will now add the following Indian corn, Potatoes, Wheat, Rye, Oats, Barley. These if necessary may be of the size of a quarto page. As the corn is a rather unwieldy for a single page, I have cut it up in a sketch on the opposite page. It is made at random from memory but may serve as some guide. Of the potatoes I should like a stem or two in flower, and a specimen of the fruit and root.

Very truly yours

J Bigelow

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[Illustration of corn]

By carrying the leaf higher the ear may be made longer.

Envelope: Mr. Edward Hitchcock, Deerfield, Mass.

Postmark: Boston

Letter 107

[EH to OW, 6 September 1819, EOH, Series 2-B, Box 5, Folder 31]

September 6th

Do you think Orra, if you should go up to Harriet's towards night we could make it so muddy, dark and rainy this evening that it would be impossible for you to get back to night? If such should be your belief I assure you I should be very happy to be placed in the same predicament (after Mr. Eliphalet and wife have gone to bed) or in other words "I'll be with you bye and bye."

E.

P. S. How soon the quarter will be out! [Could this be a reference to the academic term at DA or AA? AA's summer quarter ran from May 26 – August 18, fall from August 25 – November 17; According to FH DA offered two quarters beginning June 18, 1819; so one might have ended around mid-September]

Letter 108

[OW to Lucy D. Fowler, 19 February 1820, EOH, Series 10-B, Box 25, Folder 13]

Amherst February 19th 1820

Dear Lucy

After so long a time I send you the screen pattern, which I promised, and ought to apologize for my apparent neglect. The pattern, as I observed to you at the time, was lent, and this is the first opportunity of sending to you, since it has been returned, except by mail.

Since I saw you, I suppose you have passed through one of the most interesting periods of life and after offering my most hearty congratulations on your fair prospects, instead of making any wise remarks on the subject, I transcribe for you a scrap of poetry which Mrs. Betsy Parsons says, you have much admired and what she says every married lady ought to have by heart. I trust you will excuse this impertinence from one younger than yourself – I do it partly by her request.

Let not dear Lucy now a wife
Bid all her cares adieu,
There's comfort in a married life,
And there are crosses too.

I do not wish to mar your mirth
With an ungrateful sound,
Yet still remember, bliss on earth
No mortal ever found.

Your prospects and your hopes are great,
May God those hopes fulfill—
But you will find in every state
Some difficulties still.

The rite which late has joined your hand
Cannot insure content,
Religion forms the strand strongest band,
And Love's the best cement.

A friendship founded on esteem,
Life battering blasts endures,
It will not vanish like a dream
And such I hope, is yours.

But yet God's daily blessings wave,
Nor trust your youthful heart,
You must divine assistance have
To act a prudent part.

Tho' you have last lost a parent's wing,
Nor longer ask his care,

It is but seldom husbands bring
A lighter yoke to bear.

They have their humours and their faults,
So mutable is man -
Excuse his failings in your thoughts
And hide them if you can.

No anger, no resentment keep,
Whatever is amiss;
Be reconciled before you sleep,
And seal it with a kiss.

Or if there's cause to reprimand,
Do it with mild address;
Remember he's thy dearest friend,
And love him ne'er the less.

'Tis not the way to scold at large,
Whate'er proud passions boast—
For those their duty best discharge
Who condescend the most.

Mutual attempts to serve and please
Each other will endear,
Thus you may draw the yoke with ease,
Nor discord interfere.

Thus give your tender passions scope,
Yet better things pursue—
Be heaven the object of your choice,
And lead him hither too.

Since you must both resign your breath,
And God alone knows when,
So live that you may part in death,
To meet with joy again.

So may the Lord your way approve,
And grant you both a share
In his redeeming, saving love,
And providential care.

Mr. Easterbrook will probably be the bearer of this – he will tell you everything that has transpired here since you left, and that will be interesting – therefore I close with respects to your husband and assurance of my sincere wishes for your prosperity in temporal and spiritual concerns.

Orra

Envelope: Addressed to Miss Lucy D. Fowler, Westfield Mass.

Letter 109

[EH to OW, 21 May 1820?, EOH, Series 2-B, Box 5, Folder 31]

Friday Evening, May 21 1820 (?)

Lovely is the evening. Fair is the soft-eyed queen of night. Sweet is the whipapoor will's song in the woods. Mild is the zephyr of spring. 'Tis the season of love. Then let us meet my friend where the eye of suspicion cannot perceive us. But no more of poetry – What say you Orra to professing to wish to make Charissa Dickinson a visit this evening. Friend John understands the plot. He will speak of Charissa – you can say you have scarcely called upon her since you came to Deerfield. He will then invite you to go this evening. I will meet you sat at N. D.'s – Yours – E.

P. S. Do not be in fear of another all night interview.

Letter 110

[EH to OW, 22 February 1821, EOH, Series 2-B, Box 5, Folder 31]

Waterbury 22nd February 1821

My friend dearer than ever,

I never had a more uncomfortable and perplexing journey than the one which terminated in this place not until Monday evening of this week. It was uncomfortable because the travelling was so bad. I reached Hartford Friday noon when it began to snow and did not cease for twenty four hours. Saturday I set out for Waterbury 30 miles: but could not possibly get there and so stayed over the Sabbath in Farmington. Mr. Nettleton preached in the morning and myself in the afternoon "What a falling off was there"! A revival of religion is commencing there and indeed in almost every town in this part of Connecticut. I never had a harder days ride than that from Farmington to this place on Monday only 23 miles. The roads were almost impassible.

I never had greater cause for gratitude to God than during the journey from Amherst to this place. I rode from Longmeadow to Enfield in the evening and took a violent cold. I awoke in the night with cold chills which lasted an hour or two and then were succeeded by a feverish heat. So that I had not the least doubt that I was attacked by a fever. In the morning however I felt some better and rode to Hartford

Page 2

where my cold chills returned. However I found all the kindness and attention from Captain Bennett's family that could be shown me even by Orra herself and in the morning Saturday felt almost well again. My feverish symptoms have not returned since though I feel extremely weak and worn out with my journey. But how grateful should I be to my father in heaven for his preservations! And yet how little do I feel my obligations! This heart my dear friend remains that adamantine thing it has been and have I not reason to fear that it will never feel again till it is enveloped in the flames of the last day? How can I adore the thought that we whose lives have been so interwoven on earth must at last be separated – that I must see you as you ascend to a throne of immortal glory while I am hurrying away to everlasting burnings! Yet all this may happen – may unless I am awakened and I have reason to fear it.

Since the distressing scene which you have lately passed you are hourly in my waking and dreaming thoughts. And indeed why should your heart be wounded without wounding mind? As they have been united in so many pleasant sentiments so let them feel together the wounds of adversity. In this case however the blow is undoubtedly falls heaviest on you. It is not however the part of friendship to calculate arithmetically what proportion of the afflictions of those we love we ought to bear but it is the part of friendship to make a full tender of all its sympathies and to feel a disposition to transfer the whole load of a friend's sorrows to ourselves.

Yet after all what is the sympathy of friendship and the kind efforts of friendship if support and comfort be not communicated from heaven! It is God only that can give permanent peace and consolation and that is the kindest assistance of a friend which bids the mourner look up to him. If the afflicted lean on any mortal arm soon will he find that he has "leaned on the staff of a broken reed." But if he trust in God – need I say God is omnipotent and eternal?

I feel an extreme anxiety to hear from you and your friends. For when I left you I thought I perceived that your health was not the firmest and this was the reason that I argued you so strongly to write me a line. That promise (for I think it amounts to that) I still rely upon—and if disappointed shall conclude you to be sick.

I preached a lecture last evening in the schoolhouse because I disappointed the people on the Sabbath – I can tell you nothing about Waterbury – for I am not acquainted yet. There is a small village in the centre that is pleasant—the rest of the town is hilly.

Page 3

Why have I written this letter? Not because I had anything worth saying because I promised it—and because I feel much gratification in thus communing with my absent afflicted friend. You have always said that my letters were not wearisome – but sometimes I think they must surely try your patience.

I wish if possible to visit New Haven next week: but the travelling at present is very bad and I find that the people here have a great many evening meetings which they wish me to attend. O my poor lungs!

Longmeadow I met with a good reception in it – but tis there just as I supposed – most of the people wishing my return – but a few of these men of property unwilling for it – though apparently friendly to me. I am satisfied that I shall never preach there anymore. I am engaged here two Sabbaths.

Page 1 [along edge]

Do remember me in your prayers. Mine for you are sincere but I fear they are not the prayers of “the righteous.” I depend more upon your prayers for my success in the ministry than upon my own. Believe me affectionately and sympathetically the same E.

Address” Miss Orra White Amherst Hampshire County Mass.

[Note: Orra’s father, Jarib White, died February 2, 1821]

Letter 111

[Chapin to OW, 30 March 1824, EOH, Series 10-A, Box 25, Folder 6]

Springfield March 30th 1824

Dear Mrs. H

I received a letter from M. Clark last week which gave me intelligence of little Edward’s death. I know you and Mr. H must feel afflicted for he was a boy of much promise. The sympathy which I find awakened for you tells of a heart that is no stranger to sorrow. While I mourn with you – I rejoice that you cannot mourn as those who have no hope, and that this affliction came before you had learned to contemplate the ways of God replete with mercy as with justice.

It would now be pleasant to me if I had visited you on my way to Buckland and seen little Edward once more. How much had he improved since I saw him. Did he talk much? If it will excite too much the tears of sorrow to write me particulars—do not. I will hope should my life and health be spared to see you before the summer is passed and then you can tell me about him – all about yourself.

It is trying to my side to write much as it exercises it with pain therefore I can write but short letters but I could not refuse writing a few lines to you.

I will copy a few lines for you which please me – perhaps you have seen them.

[Written sideways]

As the sweet flower which scents the morn
But withers in the rising day
Thus lovely was my Edward’s dawn
Thus swiftly fled his life away.

And as the flower that early Iris

Escapes from many a coming woe;
No lustre lends to guilty eyes,
Nor blushes on a guilty brow.

So the sad hour that took my boy
Perhaps has spared some heavier doom.
Snatched him from scenes of guilt and joy
Or from the passage of ill to come.

He died before his infant soul
Had ever burnt with wrong desires
Had ever spurn'd at Heaven's control
Or ever quenched its sacred fires.

He died to sin, he died to care,
But for a moment felt the rod
Then springing on the view less air,
Spread his light wings and soared to God.

This is the blest theme that cheers my voice,
The grave is not my darling's prison
The stone that covered half my joys,
Is rolled away and "he is risen."

[Source: Poem by J. W. Cunningham, 1814]

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Please give my respects to Mr. H. Have either of you written to Catherine L. lately? I feel anxious to write but I do not like to send a short letter and am waiting till I can write a long one. She suffers ill health and such is the sensibility of her soul that her life must necessarily be a life "beset with ills."

PS remember might be affectionately to Col. B. They are associated with you in my memory ??? often thought of. Has Amherst done much for cousin B's mind? I think I can imagine something of the progress she has made and I do imagine Miss Lyon's School and Amherst have done much for her. I thank you for taking the trouble to procure me some worsted. It came to me safe a week since. The hands which I thought would knit it when I sent for it are cold. It may be the hands which I now design to knit it will be before it is reached.

Yours dear Mrs. H affectionately

L Chapin

Envelope: Addressed to Rev. Edward Hitchcock Conway Mass.
Postmarked Springfield Mass, April

Letter 112

[EH to OWH, 7 February 1827, EOH, Series 2-B, Box 5, Folder 32]

New Haven 7th February 1827

My dear wife

I hope I feel truly grateful to God and to you for the packet of letters just received by Mr. Shepard containing the intelligence so gratifying to a husband and a father that his wife and children are well and in comfort. Truly I have reason specially to notice your kindness in favouring me with two letters. I have not heard very directly from you since I came here, though the President wrote me a letter last week saying he believed you were well. And you cannot think with what pleasure I saw upon the cover of the Amherst paper my name written with your hand.

I have been considerably more unwell since I wrote last having been afflicted with rheumatism or something else in my left side in the region of the heart brought on I believe by straining myself in splitting wood in Mr. Johnson's cellar. Sunday and Monday I was confined to my chambers mostly: and experienced how unpleasant it is to be sick away from home. I have applied a plaster to my side and I am taking a sort of antacid medicine given me by Dr. Ives and have found myself considerably relieved so that yesterday and today I have been at the laboratory. Today I suffered severely from a headache – perhaps a rheumatic affliction removed to the head. I cannot find any exercise that suits me. I want my house very much and I begin to be satisfied that home would be a better place than New Haven at this season of the year. And yet I am unwilling to return at present. It will be imputed to homesickness if I should and besides what should I do with my duties in college? However if I find myself continuing to go down I must try to get back.

Your allusions to the final separation that must take place between us recalls to my mind a subject I have often thought of with melancholy interest. I will not indulge in gloomy anticipations as I am so apt to do: but only say that I am more...

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...more and more impressed with the importance of our being prepared for that separation – then come it sooner or later it cannot surprise us – and we cannot be said to be prepared for that separation until we are prepared to meet again in glory everlasting. Oh my heart sinks within me to think how unprepared I am!

Professor Silliman (who wishes me to present to you his kind regards) went down to N. York last Saturday on account of the dangerous sickness of his brother's wife but returned on Monday she being a little better. He is lecturing on the metals which are neither so interesting nor difficult as some parts of the course. I took dinner at his house last week. Their little girl keeps them awake till midnight by frolicking just as madame Catherine has done with us.

I build up a fire in my chamber about six. I own I find it easy to warm the room as the weather has not

been very severe. I chose to stay here because I thought I should often want nursing and if in college and taken sick where should I go? Beside I could not ascertain that a bed could be had – I expected before this that Mr. Hovey and Ware would return but they have not.

I left accidentally in my writing desk a page of my piece on Dyspepsia and I wish you would copy it into your next letter (which I trust will come next week) or if it be a whole sheet you can write on the other part.

In regards to the painting for Prof. D. if you wait till summer I know not where to find the plants growing fresh. If you have time I would draw them and give them a shading with India ink. But if you find it very difficult let them go as I did not tell him positively you would do them.

Tell Mary and Catherine I will try to pay for the apples when I return if I can find anything for them. If Mary can learn to repeat this sentence it will be gratified – “God is my Father.” As to the prayer I am not prepared with anything proper at present. I would not urge her to say the other if she seems tired of it.

Good sleighing here. I am more than halfway to N. York. The harbor is frozen three or four miles out but they have cut a road through the ice. Report says a murder was committed here a few nights ago but there is no certain evidence I believe. Mr. Goodrich I hear is unwell but how much so I cannot tell. Please to tell Professor Fiske that I have received his letter and shall endeavor to answer it soon. I have also received a letter from Dr. Cooley and shall advertise his herbarium in the Journal of Science. If you knew how desolate I am here though in the midst of friends you would not fail to write me next week.

Yours as ever

Edward Hitchcock

[Along edge of page]

I reserve the last page to write a letter to the President. I wish you would read it. Tell Nathaniel I wish him to be as economical as he can of the hay. It will not be necessary to give the creatures quite as much of the good hay as he did of the now that the weather is warmer.

[Along edge of Page 1]

Mr. Sullivan's lectures close on 3^d of March. Mrs. Johnson says the jam was the most acceptable article she could have received .

As you are a lady of property I trust you will not expect me to pay postage though I do write weekly. This has been written in extreme haste. My love to all the household.

Letter 113

[EH to OWH, 11 February 1827, EOH, Series 2-B, Box 5, Folder 32]

New Haven Sabbath evening 11th February 1827.

My dear wife,

How much more prone am I to turn my thoughts towards my house on earth than to the mansions in the skies. When I met Mr. Ammerman today at meeting my thoughts were in a moment at Amherst and it occurred to me that an opportunity presented of sending you a line. But when the minister endeavoured to raise my thoughts and affections towards heaven how slow they rose – how they cleaved to the dust – how feeble my desires to arrive at the eternal city the house not made with hands. This is one of the paradoxes of experimental religion that our affections should often claim with a firmer grasp to our earthly friends than they seem to cling to our heavenly friend. But perhaps all professing Christians do not find it so. If my love to God were supreme – if I did really desire heaven above all other spots why should not I be as anxious to go there as to return to those I love on earth: and why should I not wait with the like impatience for the hour that would carry me thither...

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...and yet how do you approach that hour is dreaded and we pray for its removal farther from us when we fear its approach! The tenors of dissolution and the hope of a better preparation the longer our lives last may indeed account for it in part that most Christians exhibit this apparent inconsistency. Oh then for such a preparation of heart that I could meet the messenger of death unmoved and feel that my redemption was nigh! I have enough one would think in the long protracted infirmities I feel utterly to wean me from the world and lead me to hold my conversations in heaven: but alas it is hard getting the mountain removed from my heart. I often think however that were it not for my family and the hope of doing a little more that will be useful for my fellow men there would be scarcely a tie to hold me to the earth: but still so faint are my desires after holiness and so formal my communion with God but I fear that it is because I can receive little comfort from the world and not because I love better objects that it appears to me so empty and uninteresting.

Mr. Ware has not yet returned. He is engaged to preach at Bloody Brook two or three weeks. So I have the chamber to myself – bed and all – which you know is not unpleasant to me when separated from my wife.

Neither has Mr. Hovey returned and we conclude he must be sick. Do you know anything about him?

In my hurry the other day I forgot to say anything about Miss Lyman. Present my best respects to her and tell her she must take my place till I return. I hope not to be deprived the pleasure of seeing her as it seems she is about leaving for life. Your letter was torn where you mentioned the age of Mr. Adams and it stands "a widower of 30—" Surely this is quite young.

Is the time of dedicating the Chapel fixed – and is a pastor of the church to be ordained at the same time? Let me know if anything new happens in College. Is Prof. Abbott delivering lectures? How was the business adjusted about my recitations? How do domestic affairs and domestics get along?

I have bought two bottles of Cayenne pepper and shall try to have the bearer take them – I also sent the

Spectator. But as the shops are all closed tonight I cannot get even a sugarplum to send the children.

My health is now very much as when I left home. If I could lose any more flesh I think I...

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...am thinner. Today has been very cold and windy.

Your faithful husband.

Edward Hitchcock

Addressed: "By Mr. Ammerman"

Mrs. Edward Hitchcock
Amherst Mass.

Letter 114

[Bela White to George White, 15 September 1831, EOH, Series 10-B, Box 25, Folder 19]

Hillsboro Illinois September 15th 1831

My dear Brother. I just received your letter which you sent by Mr. Porter but have not seen him yet, he forwarded the letter, and I understand that he intends visiting this place soon if so I shall expect to see him. I suppose that Mr. Porter gave you a wonderful account of Springfield it is common in this country for everyone to think that the place which he lives in is the best in the state. But we who live in Montgomery Co. would not be willing to exchange our chance of living here with those who live in Sangamon and Morgan Counties both have the greatest names abroad of any counties in the state, they are both good, but do not think them better than several counties which join them except that they are older and the people have got better farms made. This county is now settling fast and the people are pulling and hauling at a great rate for the best places within a few miles of town, there have been several races to the land office from this place lately, and I think will be many more this fall. I wish I had a few hundred dollars to invest in land if I had I think I could make something handsome in a few years by it. There are many people here that are paying from 25 to 50 percent for money to to purchase land with and perhaps you may think it's a tough story when I tell you that by so doing they are making from 50 to 100% upon that, but you may depend on it these are facts. I am glad to hear that business is increasing with you although it is but small—

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I regret much that you did not feel willing to come to this place with me when I came. If you had I think

you might have done well, and I think probably the chances are better in this country now than when you were here. There has been several physicians from Mass. come out here this season past and from what I can learn of them they are doing well, although I do not know the particulars.

We are about commencing to build an ox sawmill. I cannot tell how we shall make out with it, as it is entirely new business to us but I feel in hopes we shall make it profitable, there is a present great demand for sawn lumber in this place all that is used here has to be carted for about 7 to 30 miles. If we can get a good mill in operation I am satisfied that it will be of great advantage to the place if it is not to the owners. It will be making more business for us to attend to so I shall not be able to visit Mass. this year. We have the walls of a brick meetinghouse put up here this summer and the roof covered so that it will answer to meet in. The people say it is the best building of its kind in the state it adds much to the appearance of the village. Our village has improved much more this summer than it ever has before.

The crops of corn are not as good as usual in these parts this fall. But still I think there will be a tolerable supply for the inhabitants. We are expecting a very considerable immigration from the eastern states this fall. There are a good many of the Southerners moving back to Tennessee this fall but the most of them can be spared as well as not, for they are generally too lazy to work and own no property and probably never will. As to the matrimony concern that you speak of I am rather "jubilant" as a Tennessean says – But if it is as you say that there are prime Yankee girls coming on I suppose there can be no harm just to take a look at them. But I fear they are too Orthodox to suit me. I have not heard from Amherst since last winter. But am in hopes to hear by the way of our river Rev. Mr. Spellman of this place who now expects every day with a Yankee wife which we hear he has just been taking in Massachusetts. Oh! I had almost forgotten to tell you that I have a namesake here, the old woman I suppose was growing old and there is no prospect of myself getting married therefore I shall want someone to will my property to and have therefore given me a namesake. One might be spared out of such a family as this without being missed it is either the 15th or 16th child. It makes considerable support here for our family. Mr. Tillson's to think that I should be honored with a namesake but can carry on the joke with them, so I had a little plaque made and presented to him with considerable ceremony.

We had a very wet and cold summer here, there is considerable sickness in some places in the state this summer but there has been little sickness in our village. I still continue to enjoy good health myself and I think is good as I ever have in my life – from your affectionate brother.

B. White

Return address: Hillsboro Illinois September 17
Addressed to Doct. George White Monson Massachusetts

Letter 115

[George White to OWH, 23 September 1833, EOH, Series 10-A, Box 25, Folder 10]

Hillsboro Illinois September 23^d 1833

Dear Sister

Although I have nothing very particular to communicate I will spend a little while in writing in order that you shall not think we have entirely forgotten the land of the Pilgrims and the dear friends we left behind. I occasionally see an old acquaintance from the East, and still oftener a traveler whom I am unacquainted with, but who can tell the news from the land of pumpkin pies. Death has removed some old acquaintances this summer. Mrs. Farnham of which I sent you a notice by a newspaper at the time. Mr. H. Davis also died at Alton, he was a student at Amherst three or four years after me. Mr. A. J. Allen a classmate of mine at New Haven died at Jacksonville a few weeks since. The Cholera has entirely subsided in this vicinity. Kaskaskia is the only place I know of in the state where it remains. The principal fatal sickness at present is Bilious fever of which we have a few severe cases here. We have also a good deal of fever and ague but that is in ordinary cases never fatal and by many is so little thought of that they will "stand the shake" rather than pay a doctor's bill. I am very rarely called to visit a patient with this disease. The people generally merely just send for medicine and it can generally be stopped in two or three paroxysms. A man was in town Saturday after medicine...

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...for himself and family amounting in the whole to 13 cases but as he was able to ride 10 miles on horseback you might know that he was not very weak.

Mr. Huntington and part of his family moved to St. Louis this summer. Miss Julia was not of the number, she died a few weeks since.

Bela expects to commence housekeeping in a week or two he has hitherto been living with Mr. Jackson. They're extending their business considerably, the firm is now Bela White and Company and consists of Messrs. Jackson, Tillson and Morton who have visited the store and a steam, saw and grist mill in one concern. A great deal of wheat has been raised here this year. They pay at present 45 cents in goods in some places in the state and it is worth 56 1/4 which I believe is the highest. Last year it was worth a dollar or more here.

You mentioned in your last that you had sent me a letter and geological report by private conveyance. I have never received them but if you would let me know by whom you sent them I will endeavor to obtain them. Where was the person going to by whom you forwarded them? It is nearly 2 years since I came to Illinois and I am so far well contented and have never so far had cause to wish myself back again. It is not however land free from trials and perplexities, nor is it reasonable to expect any country without them. But I am certain I am the best off here I have been in any place so far. My professional business has been tolerable good and in addition the recording business and some little land agency connected with it have brought me in about \$250. I know a good office neatly furnished and furnished to my taste and some good town lots which in a few years will be valuable property – also a good stock of medicine on hand, house, stable, etc. I have now the necessary "fixens" to begin business to advantage and am now in hopes to be able to make enough to pay my debts at the East, and consider myself square with all creditors. We have less Southern and more eastern immigration this year. I find Illinois is becoming much more in esteem in New England than formerly and I sincerely hope this may continue so. The Yankees are decidedly the best part of our inhabitants, and notwithstanding the

prejudice entertained against them by the "Tuckahoes and Tennesseans" they are necessary to raise Illinois to the rank among the nations which its soil holds among the countries. It is surprising how great a difference exists between the application of enterprising Eastern and a common Southern farmer both of which have been carried on 10 years. It does appear to me that a young man would come here to commence, they would do a thousand times better than to spend the strength of the youth upon the comparatively barren farms of their fathers. It is a theory (for you must know we are not too young a state to produce its theorist) that the site of the garden of Eden was in the military bounty tract and the Mississippi and Illinois were a part of the four rivers which watered it. "Annie how" "As much about the same thing for goodness."

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I have only time left to send my love to you and all the family. I suppose mother has returned by this time. B thinks you have quite neglected him of late.

Affectionately your brother,
George

Addressed to Mrs. Orra W. Hitchcock Amherst Massachusetts
Postmark Hillsboro Illinois Sep 28

Letter 116

[OWH to Mrs. Nathan W. Fiske, 9 May 1834, EOH, Series 10-B, Box 25, Folder 12]

N. York May 9th 1834

My dear Mrs. F. [Mrs. Nathan W. Fiske]

In the fulfillment of my promise now that a week has passed since I left home I shall write a few words that you may know how and where we are. I can scarcely believe on reckoning of the days that it is but little more than a week since I left home. I have passed through such a variety of scenes and seen so many strangers and so many friends too but if I did not absolutely know to the contrary I should say that I had been gone for months. I have been interested and delighted with many things and with some exceedingly disgusted – but on the whole have enjoyed a great deal. We were prospered exceedingly on our journey hither. The weather was very fine excepting the latter part of the way from N. Haven here we had a little rain but we were in a steamboat and it did not affect us much. Since we have been here, we have been most kindly and hospitably entertained in one of the finest families that I have ever seen only a short distance from Chatham Street where most of the public meetings were held so that if it rains as it has many times during this week it does not prevent us from attending the exercises – that is as many as we have strength to attend for they are very long – four hours the very shortest.

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You may be interested to know that Mr. and Mrs. Hooker are with us. Mrs. H. sends love to you and wishes me to say that they will have leave tomorrow but do not go directly home— they however expect to each home the latter part of next week – then if your uncle and aunt are with you she will be ready to have them go to Lanesboro anytime.

I hardly know what to say of the effect of this journey on my husband's health – perhaps you will think I ought to make a favorable report, when I tell you that it has not made him downright sick – he has borne the irregularity and the excitement of this week as well as I expected. As for myself I am tired every night, but every morning have been refreshed with sleep and prepared to endeavor as much as on the previous day.

Of the exercises I shall say nothing because you will doubtless have seen the whole in the newspapers before this reaches you – or I will only say that I have been more interested in them than I expected.

I hope tomorrow I shall receive your letter for notwithstanding the meeting subjects which constantly surround me I find my thoughts often very often stealing away from this busy throng and fastening upon my loved native village and the dear friends there. Please say to my children but I think much of them and I always choose to imagine that they are very good now that their father and mother are away and hope if I should be spared to return to them that I shall hear nothing which shall oblige me to realize to the contrary. Please tell Edward that his father meant to have seen him again in the morning we left and told him something he "might do"—that is he might get out all the nails he can find out of the old shingles which were taken off Mrs. Duncan's house and put them in a box and he might have them to use when he wanted.

Monday 12th I did not send my letter last week because Mr. H. said as he had just sent home by the Shepards I had better delay until we had decided whether we went on farther. This morning at 10 o'clock we are intending to start for Philadelphia. How long we shall remain there is uncertain probably but a few days and then I feel as if I should like to set my face homewards.

I felt disappointed in not getting your letter on Saturday— shall send to the Post Office again this morning for I should enjoy my ride much better if I could hear that you are all well at home. I have been writing with a bad pen??? rather than go down to ask for a better one and I am so tired of it that I will write the rest with a pencil lest you should not be able to decipher it, though I have nothing else to say but my kind regards to your husband and love to our household and a kiss to little Jane and tell her Mother does want to see her. Mr. H. would doubtless join me in those salutations if he were present.

Your affectionate

OW Hitchcock

My very particular love to Helen how grateful she and all the other children in Amherst ought to feel that they can have peace and fresh air to breathe and room enough to play outdoors— I have...

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...been led to reflect often on this subject since I have been in N. York City. It would make me very unhappy to be doomed to spend my days in such a prison.

...I have had an interview with our old friend Peter Parker. He delivered a particular remembrance to Mrs. Fisk – he is to sail for China soon but the poor man has been disappointed in a helpmate and will probably be obliged to go alone...

Envelope: Addressed to Mrs. Nathan W Fisk, Amherst, Mass. Return address: Mrs. Hitchcock
Postmark: N. York May 12

Letter 117

[EH to OWH, 23 July 1837, EOH, Series 2-B, Box 5, Folder 32]

Norton July 23^d 1837

My dear Orra,

I forgot when I left home to mention to you any place to which you might direct a letter in case of sickness or other trouble at home and I write principally to say that you may if you please send to this place to the care of Miss Caldwell if you have reason to write within a week from this date. I may not come back here but mean to do it before I return to Amherst. Tomorrow I expect to go to Mansfield where I hope to meet Mr. Larkin who has promised to accompany me.

We reached here in safety after two hard days ride on Friday evening having staid in Worcester the first night. Mary has seen a good many things about which I trust she will write ere long. I have got her comfortably settled in the seminary boarding house and hope she is not going to be very homesick though Miss Lyon says she cried some yesterday. I took her yesterday afternoon with her roommate and Miss...

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...Lyon and rode out 3 or 4 miles. But the scenery here is so tame and uninteresting compared with that around Amherst that I am homesick if Mary is not. Oh for a mountain to rest the eye upon! I went yesterday to Cumberland Rhode Island and tomorrow hope to go to Mansfield only 4 or 5 miles from this place where I may spend several days. It is the coal region.

I will not say anything about domestic or farming affairs at home but will hope that they may get along somehow. I try to keep my mind as quiet as possible for I find my health very precarious and my spirits a good deal depressed in consequence. It has been my misfortune for two years past to be forced to engage in geological researches in the heat of July if I am engaged at all. I want a precious seasoning to endure it. But probably I need this feebleness to keep me in any measure in that state of feeling which I ought to cherish. I think I do in some measure feel the vanity of all the ordinary pursuits and even my

much loved geology hardly excites interest enough to keep me active. I feel as if my foundation here in the dust and as if it would take but very little to extinguish the people flame of life. Yet apart from my family the idea of leaving so trying a world is this does not look very painful. Still I fear that I am but poorly prepared for such an event.

I think much of you and of the increased responsibilities and duties that now devolve upon you and hope you will not let them weigh too heavily on your mind. I can only pray for you subscribe myself your affectionate husband

Edward Hitchcock

PS I trust that Edward means to behave so well during my absence that not one word of censure need to be passed upon him when I return.

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Envelope

Return address Norton, Ms. July 24
Address Mrs. Edward Hitchcock Amherst Mass.

Letter 118

[OWH to EH, 29 September 1837, EOH, Series 2-A, Box 4, Folder 13]

Amherst September 29th 1837

My dear husband

I have just received your letter and set down forthwith to give it a hasty answer. I have not written before because we were all well and I have been very busy as usual and you know there is always great uncertainty about letters reaching you in your revolving circles—but when I learned that you are not well and feeling all the depression of an easterly wind upon the coast I thought it might cheer you a little to have hear that we are well though you may not get this until you are nearly ready to start for home- still I reasoned that the remainder of your journey might be more likely to be serviceable to you not to have the feeling that you have not heard a word from us and perhaps you may find some of us sick or in trouble.

I believe we have got along as well as usual without you – the corn is gathered, the potatoes are getting gathered and I have received a few bushels of winter apples – though I found myself as ignorant as...

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...a child concerning the quantity you are in the habit of getting—and then there is no day in which we

do not need your counsel and advice and care.

I have heard nothing from Deerfield yet – Catherine goes to school and Edward recites to H. Spofford. He says tell Papa that I get through the grammar today and tomorrow intend to get a lesson in the Latin reader and have I not done pretty well?

I wrote to Miss Caldwell and Mary the day after you left and requested Miss C. if she received mine in season to send to you at Newburyport by the Monday following to send them, if not to direct to Boston.

Dr. Humphrey returned this week on Wednesday pretty well with the exception of a bad cold.

Jane has been very sick but is now better has a good appetite and sets up three hours at a time.

We have been threatened with a storm every day this week and yesterday it did rain a little – today is not pleasant but this afternoon it looks more like cold weather than rain.

Your geological letters continue to come in. No others of consequence of been received. There is however a large one in the office now with ninety two cents postage upon it I believe from N. York which I have concluded to have remain there until your return.

My regards to Mr. Adams if he is not yet gone and tell him that I presume his selection at N. Bedford must be a *Conus cedonulli* or it would not have found a place in his cabinet.

We shall rejoice to see you home again, much more if your journeying had benefited you in proportion as it has me – but let us feel that all events are under the control of Him who knows what is best for us.

Yours in the truest affection

OWH

Envelope

Return address: Mrs. Hitchcock

Address: Rev. Edward Hitchcock

Postmark: Amherst Ms. September 30

Letter 119

[OWH to MH, 21 February 1842, EOH, Series 2-A, Box 4, Folder 13]

Amherst February 21st 1842

My dear child,

I have \$30 in my pocket ready to send by the first private opportunity for the payment of your bills but I cannot safely send it by mail. If I do not find an opportunity before your payday comes you can mention to Deacon Porter that the money will be there in a few days.

I hope I am gaining somewhat but it is very slow and I know not when I shall regain my lost strength. Every new attack of this kind reminds me that my constitution is less and less able to bear it and admonishes me that ere long I shall sink under it.

I had an opportunity when you left the other day to say all that I meant to say respecting your religious state. The fact is I am greatly afraid you are going to lose your soul by delay to give your heart to the Saviour. You are...

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...convinced that you ought to do it but still you are not quite ready and while your duties at the seminary press upon you severely I fear you will procrastinate until a precious moment is forever gone. If you do suffer the present urgent call to pass by I fear it will be your last one. Whatever else you neglect I beseech you not to neglect immediate attention to your soul. We had rather you would fail in your studies and everything else than in attention to your soul. Do not I beseech you neglect the warning voice from your father who has to mourn that none of his children have yet chosen this good pact which is of more value than the whole world.

I shall leave room if Ma wishes to add anything and subscribe myself your affectionate father

E Hitchcock

Dear Mary

Your dress I have taken in hand to mend today and when I get through it will send by the first opportunity together with the other things. I am glad to hear that your vacation work was so serviceable to you. I think it proves that you do not have sufficient exercise—try to use your lower limbs as much as you can—it would be far better for you I think if you could devise some way to stand when you study.

When your time comes round again do not fail to soak your feet for one two or three nights and take some chamomile tea and jump about just as much as you can and perhaps put on the planter toe.

I shall think much about you next Thursday for I suppose you will observe a day of fasting and prayer as well as we—remember that a great many prayers will be offered for you on that day by a great many christians – do be earnest yourself and who can tell what it may accomplish.

In haste your affectionate mother

On the back of the envelope

Love to Miss Lyon—tell her we want a visit from her very much—I think Papa will soon be well enough to enjoy a visit from her.

Address: Miss Mary Hitchcock, Seminary, South Hadley Mass. Postmark: Amherst Mass. February 22

Letter 120

[OWH to her children, 22 August 1843, EOH, Series 10-B, Box 25, Folder 16]

Saratoga Springs Tuesday Aug. 22^d 1843

Dear Children,

We reached this place on Saturday evening and since that time it has rained almost incessantly. We spent two nights at Williamstown and two at Hoosick Falls with Mr. Wilder. We left Jane at Charlemont pleasantly situated and do not know when or how she will get home though if homesick she will take the stage to Greenfield. We met with no accident on our journey except the breaking of a shaft to the carriage. The scenery through to Charlemont Zoar and Florida was splendid and on the top of Hoosac Mountain red raspberries are as thick as upon the White Mountains.

We put up at the pavilion in this place a very large hotel where is a good deal of music and some dancing and folly but some good company. The place is quite full of people most of whom appear in rather better health than usual. Dr. Humphrey and his son Mr. Colton...

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...and Mr. Fiske (of the Academy) are here. Dr. Humphrey has been quite unwell but is now recovered.

We need to leave here towards the last of the week but have no hope of reaching home this week. We have not yet heard from home but hope to find a letter tomorrow. We trust you will get along well during our absence and shall expect to hear a good report of you when we come back. We pray for the blessings of God upon you now and at all times and remain your affectionate parents

E. and O. Hitchcock

Envelope

Address: Edward Hitchcock Jr., Amherst, Mass.
Postmark: Saratoga Springs N. York August 23

Letter 121

[OWH to MH, 23 September 1843, EOH, Series 10-B, Box 25, Folder 15]

Amherst September 23, 1843

Dear Mary

I understand Mrs. Cooley thinks of starting for Troy tomorrow with Mr. T. and Irene. I thought you might be glad to hear from home by this time, so I improve a few hasty moments in writing this evening. Your father went to South Deerfield to preach today and has not returned yet though I think I hear him this moment driving into the yard. Kate has not been quite well today some headache and loss of appetite. The rest of us are well as usual. I think you must have had rather a lovely ride the other day from S. to A. unless you were more disposed than usual to get acquainted with strangers. We built a good deal of solicitude about you until Mrs. T arrived and were sincerely rejoiced to hear that Dr. T. had met you in Albany and that you got safely on. We are now glad that you did go on though...

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...father thought if he had carried you down he should hardly have advised you to go on without Mary French. You might have stayed without your baggage. It would have been left at the Albany depot until you called for it.

We had the aggravation of hearing the next day that Mr. Lucius Boltwood went the day before and we thought it a great pity that you should not have gone with him—however the experience may be useful to you.

We had our visit from Prof. Silliman and his daughter on Friday evening and a party of about 20 to meet them—enjoyed it much.

I hope you will write Mrs. C. particularly about yourself—your journey, school—boarding place etc. etc.

Edward wants to know whether you spoke from Springfield to Albany to any persons he says he liked the looks of the lady who sat behind you. He found Miss Lyon just as he was starting for home and brought her to South Hadley and so had quite a sociable ride—she promises again to come and make us a visit before her term commences.

I attended Miss Bush's examination on Thursday P.M.—she came off with great eclat. I do not think of any other very wonderful occurrences since you left.

The children all send love. Father says he shall write before a great while.

Remember to write us full letters—do not send quantities of empty paper but you need not take this as a pattern either for the rhetoric or the penmanship for I am writing in great haste and with a miserable old steel pen.

My kind regards to Mr. and Mrs. Bardwell love to Mary French also.

From your affectionate

Mother

Envelope: Miss Mary Hitchcock, Troy N. York

[In pencil]

If I had concluded exactly what to get for a dress for myself this winter I believe I should send you the money to get it for me—but I have hardly had time to think yet since you went away.

Tuesday AM -

Catherine is better – is going to be sick I trust. Ann Linnell better – have not seen Mrs. Robinson myself yet – Miss B. did not go yesterday on account of the weather.

Letter 122

[OWH to MH, 1843, EOH, Series 10-B, Box 25, Folder 15]

Dear Mary.

Your letter of last week was thankfully received – we too have begun to think it was a great while since we had heard from you – I hope you have settled the controversy with your tooth for the present if not forever – I very often think of you as having a fine opportunity for improvement and hope you are making a good use of it – tell Mrs. Bardwell I hope she does not suffer you to get low spirited in the midst of all your tooth troubles, though it would not be strange if a few tears had fallen now and then—your week's vacation is near at hand—I wish I could have an opportunity to send to you before that time but I know of none – I understand Mrs. Robinson was expected home soon, I shall ascertain tomorrow whether she is to come by public or private conveyance. The sleeves that came out of your cloak would be just the thing for you to use again because they would cut over into fashionable sleeves now – but if I cannot have an opportunity to send them before a great while you had better not wait, but purchase some alpaca and some black cambric to line with and black silk for cuffs – because I presume you need your cloak to wear. The prunella you may as well get for...

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...foot stools – I should like them very much for you know I have not had anything of the kind that are pretty. It will be good work for you in your vacation – I am glad you have become acquainted with Mrs. Arms – her mother I regard as one of the excellent of the earth – but I can only think of her Mrs. A. as a

little nosy checked girl tripping across Deerfield common in a dewy morning with her short frock and laughing face – do give my love to her and tell her I am glad to have a daughter visit her if I cannot myself – has she children? My love to Miss Terry also I am glad you find acquaintances in Troy – it will be pleasant and improving to you –

I suppose you had your Thanksgiving last week—hope you enjoyed it – but I suppose the occasion is one of much less interest in Troy than Christmas. You ask how we spent ours. We had nothing particularly splendid—your father preached for Mr. Martin in Hadley East Street and Jane and I went over with him to meeting and returned to dine. We invited a few students to dine but only three accepted the invitation. Harrison Long and Mundy a freshman—in the evening Zeph Humphrey and Mr. Taylor – Caroline and Huey we invited but they did not come – Lucy was not well—Miss Lyons wished them to stay at her home. Aunt Caroline has another son.

We are all much as usual at home except your father and I are somewhat complaining of rheumatism or old age – father in his back I in my shoulder—did I not complain of it before you left home? For the last two months I have not been able to dress and undress myself without much suffering. It is so hard for me to get my hair combed and done up, that I have had it cut off tight in my neck.

Catherine has an airtight stove in her room and has a regular school daily for Jane Charles and Emily and I suppose they have a rum time.

Kate is also a directress of the juvenile sewing circle which meets weekly. She meets weekly so you see she is promoted to high offices this winter. I am also meeting with the young ladies sewing society weekly we are all engaged preparing for another fair – the accounts of which are in part or all directed to the Swiss mission. I was obliged to you for the sermon of Dr. Berman's – I thought from that specimen I should like him for my minister.

I believe it is decided providence permitting that your father is to lecture in Troy on the evening of 20th February – I suppose that will be about the time your term is to close.

You said you are going to visit during Mrs. B's absence but you did not say where or how much to visit— if you have visiting to do perhaps it would be the most favorable time to do it – you have not said whether the...

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...family you board in are pious people or what religious privileges you have – our hearts are so prone to go astray that unless we have something to bring the subject before our minds frequently we are in danger of losing our interest in it and relaxing in our duties – whether you do or do not enjoy family prayers I hope you do not neglect daily secret prayers and in all your intercourse with those who do not professed religion be not ashamed or afraid to show them that you do regard it the great of object of living to prepare for eternity – let the Bible be your guide – the Saviour your bosom friend – he will be ready to help you in all sorts of trouble.

[First page, along the edge and the top]

If you want flowers or a tab for your bonnet get it—ask Mrs. B for money if you have not enough. I do not wish you to spend unnecessarily neither do I wish you to spare for anything that you need for your comfort or your respectability – depend remark at Mrs. Bardwell’s judgment what you need for your benefit – do not depend deprive yourself of those privileges which may now be in your power to and perhaps may never be again for the want of a little money. You spoke about old coverall – if you need one get a nice one and use your old ones for morning.

Kate and I have an uncut velvet they are much needing for winter than silk. Have you yet a muff or are you too fashionable to need one?

Kate wants a little room for writing so with my best respects to Dr. and Mrs. B. I shall relinquish myself. Your aff—Mother

Dear Mary, I have found a corner which I think ought to be filled up. When is that letter coming from Mary French and you? If you don't answer...

[Written sideways on page 1]

...it soon we shall have no opportunity to give you another Gazette of Amherst news. Mother wishes me to tell you about Mrs. Fisk. She is very feeble this winter is not able to sit up all day. But I believe she is thought to be rather better than now than she was a little while ago. Mary Gilbert has gone to Westhampton to teach. Her school commences tomorrow. Mary Humphrey has gone to Brooklyn and there is no one left in Amherst. Mr. Taylor wished me always to give you his respects to you whenever I write. The children also send love. Write soon. Your sister Kate.

[In margin on back]

We are all studying anatomy. We go up in the study every day after dinner and have the manikin dissected.

Envelope: Addressed to Miss Mary Hitchcock, Troy, N. York, Care of Doct. A. Bardwell
Postmark: Amherst Ms. Dec. 20

Letter 123

[OWH to Mrs. Nathan W. Fiske, from
<https://libraryweb.coloradocollege.edu/library/specialcollections/Manuscript/HHJ1-1-27.html>]

Addressed: Mrs. N.W. Fiske, Charlestown, Mass

[Tuesday] Amherst July 18th 1843

My dear Mrs. Fiske

When Mary Humphrey went to Charlestown I fully intended to have written you a letter by her & reserved the day previous to her going for that purpose, but before I had commenced my work who but Kate should pop her head very unexpectedly into my room with two or three of her school companions to spend a day of recreation & as I was then feeble, it was all that I had strength to do for that day—I then thought I should write very soon by mail, but I am one of those procrastinating sort of people that never get any thing done in season unless compelled by some urgency. I believe unless I had been situated as I am in a large family when there is always something pressing upon me to have done that I should accomplish very little—perhaps that is the very reason why I have had so large a family to take care of, that I need not have the odium of laziness attached to my character.

I understand your health is not so good, though I have not been informed as to the exact state of it, but from the fact that your husband is going down to see you, I must suppose that you are considerably worse.

I am pained to more than surprised to hear it, for you have seemed so like the shadow of a woman for a long time that it now surprises me to hear of your being sick, especially since I have felt what it is to be diseased about the lungs, & know how the whole system is affected by it. -- I think I feel better than usually prepared to sympathize with you, for many of thoughts which may now be passing through your mind now, have so lately occupied my own, [] consumption may be reaching forth this hand to seize me with that firm grasp which will surely (though it may be slowly) lead me to the grave—Am I ready? Is my faith firmly fixed on the Rock of Ages -- Will my Saviour buoy me up when I come to pass over the Jordan, that the floods may not overflow me? And then this rending asunder of strong & tender ties—for though the world in general will not be affected by it, my own family will miss me—my poor lonely husband just finished completed his half century—who will be a companion for him in his down hill of life—nurse him in sickness, cheer him in despondency, & smile when all the rest of the world may frown—and the children too who will watch over them the little ones with a mother's ceaseless love, train them with a mother's anxious care, & with the older ones, who so faithful as a mother to warn them of dangers & advise for their best interests—how many subjects in which daughters need the counsel of an experienced mother—& though we may hope that they have chosen the Lord for their portion, they are constantly liable by indiscretion & ignorance of the world to bring reproach on his cause it which might often be prevented by the faithfulness of a friend who was ever upon the watch & who like a mother, would feel it to be her business to show them their faults.

When I think of you I imagine you in the same cheerful frame of mind, which you have always manifested in your worst, as well as best health & which I believe you would were you sure that you were on the last week of your probation -- but I cannot tell you how much I wish you were here in your own house & how much I have felt your absence this summer. My health is now quite good. I only feel a small remnant of soreness in my side if I get fatigued, & that is constantly lessening. I am still sparing myself & I am more of a stranger in my kitchen than you have ever known me.

I have not seen Mr Tyler or your husband, since he (Mr. T.) returned from Pittsfield, but I understand he brings cheering intelligence from Helen. I do sincerely congratulate you—surely this is a solace in your sickness. God grant that it may be a real work of grace. Love to Ann. I expect when Jane comes home from school she will have a letter ready to send by Mr F. I have just received a letter from Mr & Mrs Perkins. Mrs P. says "remember me affectionately to friends in A. particularly the dear Mrs F. whom I sincerely love." They had been prospered in their journey—all in good health. They had a pious captain & a kind man which contributed greatly to their comfort—little Judith bore the journey well. The captain called her a very good sailor. I suspect she was quite a pet in the family & did much towards keeping up their spirits. The bishop seemed to enjoy his neat bed & bedding as much as any of the company.

They arrived at Smyrna the 7th of April—an uncommonly quick passage.

Your husband will tell you about college matters which at present seems to be an engrossing subject among the Faculty.

Commencement is drawing near & if it is the Lord's will I hope you will be able to return after that is over, but if not let us endeavor in all things to submit cheerfully to that will, though it may thwart our dearest plans.

yours with sincere affection O.W.H.

[Orra White Hitchcock]

Tell Ann she may have the satisfaction of feeling that she has made Emily very happy by sending her that nice doll she calls it her Anne Fiske & loves it better than any doll she ever had.

Remember me affectionately to cousin Martha also to your aunt & uncle if they are with you.

Letter 124

[EHJ to OWH, 20 April 1844, EOH, Series 10-A, Box 25, Folder 8]

[In pencil at the top] "My first letter home"

Easthampton Saturday, April [postmarked 20] 1844

Dear Mother.

As you requested me to write often I thought I would now write. I sit here on in the No. 1 Seminary building, a room with one window in it, facing the north 10 or 12 feet square. My room is a very good one except that it is a little noisy as is the case now, school being just out. The reason of beginning

before dinner is because I am going over to Northampton this afternoon and still I don't know how I shall come out on my lessons Monday: but I think I need the exercise. (The bell rings for dinner and I must stop). I guess that if you were to take dinner at the boarding house you would be a little disgusted to see the fellows eat: they eat their toast just as soaking with butter as it can hold: I should vomit if I were to eat so much grease as the fellows eat. But perhaps you may like to know a little about the school: the bell rings at 5:30 in the morning for the students to go up and arrange their rooms etc. then we have breakfast at seven o'clock and then I generally study till a quarter before nine. (I also study about an hour before breakfast) then we all go in to prayers, and after prayers I go down to Mr. Russell Wright's recitation room and recite arithmetic until a quarter past ten. Then I study until quarter past eleven and then go into Monroe Wright's room and recite Virgil until...

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...noon and then I take a little exercise before dinner and then generally some after dinner. A quarter before two I go and recite Greek to Bos Wright!! until half past two, then I have the rest of the afternoon to study. Perhaps you may not like to hear all this but this is about all I have to do and so I like to tell of it. How does William get along? Tell him to give the ducks corn enough tell him I hope he likes living in Amherst for I like here very well. Tell Charlie Emily and Jane to be good and do their duty and give my love to them. Tell Catherine and Mary to write to me, and send some papers, for I want to send some away and have not had a newspaper of any kind since I have been here. Give my respects to Cynthia and tell her to remember her promise. Give my love to father and tell him that I hope I shall grow both in knowledge and in grace, for it is a good place for both. Give my kindest regards to brother Newhall for the interest he takes in me and I hope I shall profit by his advice. Tell him I congratulate him on his dissertation, and hope to be over to attend the exhibition next summer if life and health are spared. I imagine I shall be sick unless I take some more exercise but I hope not. I must stop here though I should be glad to say more, but G. W. Washburn who is going with me keeps coming to my door and thumping the same as to say hurry and I hope you will excuse my hurry.

Your aff. son
Edward Hitchcock Jr.

Envelope: Mrs. O. W. Hitchcock Amherst Mass.
Postmark Easthampton April 20

Letter 125

[EHJ to OWH, 8 May 1844, EOH, Series 10-A, Box 25, Folder 8]

Wednesday, May 8, 1844.

Dear Mother.

The first thing I have to tell you is that I am most sick but don't be troubled about me for I guess that it will be nothing serious. I have been very well till today but this boarding house does not agree with me. One reason why I am sick is because I want to go to South Hadley to the examination today and Bos won't let me go: and I think it is real mean in him not to let me go, because, he let one of the other fellows go: but I suppose it is all for the better that I should not go. I suppose that Father is in Washington for Morse was over here last Saturday and he said that he saw Newhall in Springfield the day before with Father. I am glad that he is gone for I think that it will do him some good, even if it does take off some of his money from me. I suppose I shall have some bills to pay, and I have not any money to pay them with. And if father left any money with you to pay them please send it when you send for me. If not it is no matter for I can leave them till next term. I suppose they will amount to about 650 or somewhere about there. Our term is out Tuesday night and tell William that he may come over in the morning and stay all day if he would like to, though I may not be through till Wednesday morning, but still I want you to stand for me Tuesday unless you are to send for Father that day: and if you are you need not be in a hurry to send for me, for I had just as lives stay and see the fellows off. I am acquainted...

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...with nearly all the fellows a hundred and thirty or more and generally they are a pretty good set, though there are some mean and wicked fellows here. There is a Mr. Marsh here, who works on Mr. Williston's house, who wants me to come down there some day and he says he will introduce to Mrs. Williston, and I can go over the whole house, but I have no notion of this making myself green on anybody's account, although I should like to see the house very well. You must calculate for a pretty large wash when I get home for I have got a pillowcase more than half full though I sent my white pantaloons and blouse to be washed this week which will save Cynthia some hard scrubbing. Before I came here I used to think that the fellows could do nothing without having the teachers in their hair: but I find it is not quite so bad although you have got to behave well or you will get into trouble. I think that this school is the best of any about here for both boys and girls (except South Hadley for the girls) but this is a good place for wild girls. I don't think it will be a good time for any body to come here next week except William for I shall have considerable to do and cannot attend to anybody but myself. I do not know of anything else to say except that I hope I shall be permitted to return home next week.

Your son

Edward Hitchcock Jr.

To Mrs. O. W. Hitchcock Amherst Mass.

[George Harrison Newhall was a member of the Amherst College class of 1845.]

Envelope: Mrs. O. W. Hitchcock
Care Prof. Hitchcock, Amherst Mass.

Postmark: Easthampton May 9

Letter 126

[EHJ to OWH, 11 July 1844, EOH, Series 10-A, Box 25, Folder 8]

Easthampton July 11th 1844

Dear Mother

I must begin this letter as I have begun several of my other letters by saying that I am sick. Last night I had one of my bad turns again though it was not so bad as I have had before but still I do not like such turns. This morning I felt rather better but I do not feel well enough to attend to my studies and so I got excused. I got back here Monday about noon and John Washburn got over here about a half an hour before I did and might have brought me over to Easthampton just as well as not if he had been so disposed. Mr. Wright is very desirous to know whether I am going to enter college this fall or not: and I should like to know myself what I am going to be: whether I am to be a professional man or a farmer: and I hope you will write back whether I am to enter this fall or not. If I were not to enter this fall and expected even to come here again after this term I think it would be best to go home now and finish this half term some other time for it is hard work to study this hot weather. I want you should give me leave to go to South Hadley at the anniversary because I am afraid Mr. Wright will not let me go without I have leave from you. And I want to come home at commencement and if I enter college I want to stay home, and not come back, and if I do not enter I want very much to stay for I shall have only a few days to stay after commencement. Tell father that my...

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...expenses for this term will be about 15 dollars and these are not so great a bill as many will have. Tell somebody to send me an order of exercises of the summer exhibition: give my respects to all the folks an all inquiring friends.

Your son,

Edward Hitchcock Jr.

To Mrs. O. W. Hitchcock, Amherst Mass.

Envelope: Mrs. O. W. Hitchcock Amherst Mass.

Postmark: Easthampton July 11

Letter 127

[EHJ to OWH, 1 November 1844, EOH, Series 10-A, Box 25, Folder 8]

Easthampton Nov. 1 1844

Dear Mother

Mr. Alden thinks he shall go over to Amherst tomorrow if it is pleasant and so I think I must begin my letter today as I have just finished under 140 lines in the Georgies since noon (it now being about four o'clock) I think I can steal a few minutes to write home. But by the way, I must go and attend to writing, as you see I probably need it. We will come back very early Monday morn and so, perhaps you had better get Billings, or someone else, to carry my bundle to the place wherever he leaves his horses, on Sunday night. I have somehow rather torn my slipper as you see, and I thought I would not trust its mending to anyone but you: so I hope you will mend it so as to send it back by Mr. A. I want Jane or Mary or you if you have time to find one volume of the Wreath, the Vulture of the Alps, and copy it off and send it to me by Mr. Alden: for I am to speak in one week and a half. It begins thus:

I've been among the mighty Alps.
And wandered through their vales etc. etc.

[Source: Poem by J. J. Hutchinson, 1843]

I wish that you would just put into the pantaloons pocket a small piece of cloth like my worsted coat, as the buttons are worn out. Please to write back.

E Hitchcock Jr.

(Remember the apples)

Envelope: Mrs. Edward Hitchcock Amherst Mass.
Dvd. by Mr. Alden

Letter 128

[EHJ to OWH, 11 November 1844, EOH, Series 10-A, Box 25, Folder 8]
Easthampton Nov. 11 1844

Dear Mother

I received a letter from Harrison night before last, by Mr. Edwards and as he said he should return tonight, I thought I would save a fourpence. Tell Harry that I showed that letter to Mr. Alden and he said that I had better say nothing about D. M. Kimball's case, but I suppose it will soon appear in print or

otherwise. I had a letter from Catherine, Saturday, and if it is fair, she is going to meet me at Rock Ferry, Wednesday afternoon.

The new pants go pretty well, but the apples went faster, for they were all gone in two days after I received them. I suppose I shall have no other opportunity to send home this term again, and so I must send my bills: they will come to about 11 dollars, which will be one or two dollars more than last term on account of writing and wood, and I want father should send me one dollar of mine (on my note I mean) for I have broken one light of glass and spent a little at the two public days at Northampton etc. which should not come out of his pocket. I have just found out that the Democrats and Abolitionists have united and put Mr. Kimball for Representative and as the Whigs have Mr. E. W Wright for Representative and elected him I think we shall possibly get represented. I suppose that you will not think it best for me to come back here next term, although I should like to very V E R Y much and...

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...consequently it will be necessary to take all my things home at the end of the term and it will make a pretty good load. But by the way our examination is next Tuesday all day, and school will not be out till late on that afternoon, and unless you should want to come to the examination very bad, perhaps it would not be best to send, or come after me till Wednesday morning: but it is as you say for I do not care much about it either way.

(Evening) Mr. Edwards has not yet come and I shall not send my letter until Wednesday, when Samuel Williston is going to Amherst to attend to a trustee meeting: and I hope you will send the money by him, rather than wait until you send for me, for the last day there's always so much to do but I had rather settle my bills before that day. I should like to know what Catherine meant by saying that Mr. Ayers was going to be tutor in Amherst College, who is he whether it is the new professor or who! or whether she was joking me! She also intimated that Prof. Warner was expected back and so I have heard from the nephew he has here. And above all who is going to be president!!! A ???? a Mr. Dwight of Portland! I wish you would send me back word, that I may know for my own edification and that of others who want to know about the college. I have had but one sick day this term, and in all my losing's, I have lost but four recitations and hope not to lose any more if I have health spared. I do not expect to stand the best in my classes this term, nor by any means the poorest, for I think my marks will be higher this term than they were last.

Wednesday Morn. Nothing more to say except good bye.

Edward Hitchcock

To Mrs. Prof. Hitchcock

Envelope:

Addressed to Mrs. O. W. Hitchcock, Amherst Mass. (By Mr. Williston)
Postmark: Easthampton, Ms. Nov. 16

Letter 129

[EHJ to OWH, 4 March 1845, EOH, Series 10-A, Box 25, Folder 8]

Williston Seminary Mar 4th /45

Dear Mother

You may have some curiosity and perhaps some anxiety to know how I got along, and who I had for a chum, etc. When I arrived here after waiting a full hour for Mr. Wright I found my room but no chum, so Mr. Wright told me to go in there and he would do as well as he could for a chum for me: so the next day he gave me a fellow by the name of Garrett (Billings knows him) and we roomed for a day together but all the time I remember that the Papa told me to room alone and so not liking him for a chum I told Mr. W that I must room alone, making for the main excuse that Father had told me to so you perceive that after quite a struggle with Mr. W.— and Garrett I have got back into my old last summer's room in the old building No. 31: though Mary and Jane may laugh at my going back and to so little a room still tell them that I am very comfortable here, and besides that it is considerably cheaper. I was not very well all last week and a little homesick, but I feel better this week. We have quite a good school this term a much steadier set than there was last term numbering about 150. I am reviewing Cicero and...

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...Greek reader and studying Algebra. Made a pretty good beginning I hope. You said just before I came away that Mr. C. B. Adams was coming down to Amherst before long, and I am glad of it if I can get an opportunity to send over two shells, before he comes: for I cannot find in Puckertown town a man who knows anything about shells or has a book on that subject. I will attempt to describe them, so in case they should not get there before he goes away, he may perhaps know something about them. One kind are from an inch long to seven, in great quantities, they are of light color etc. little grayish. It is quite a thin shell and is considerable translucent: there are no teeth on the inside under the hinge but nearby a sort of a ridge: this is pretty much all I can say of it except that it is quite thick and one end tapers to a point. But I have left out quite an important part that is that there are dark green stripes upon it radiating from the centre. Of the other kind I have found but four which are about an inch and a half long and three quarters wide, a thick shell, very dark coloured, quite a gloss, and green radiations are visible by holding them before the lamp, one tooth on each valve, which sets into the other shell in a sort of a rough place like the teeth of an iron vice. These are the kinds of shells which I found in the canal yet last Saturday, and I never saw any like them before but I hope Mr. Adams will make out what they are.

Mr. Williston has asked me to call down at his house which I think I shall do before long. Charles Fowler and Chauncey get along very well; they board at Deacon Marbles and I at the club. Give my love to all our family and write to me soon as it costs but three cents.

Good night,

Edward Hitchcock Jr.

PS Wednesday morning. I want you should write me soon and tell me what and when you think of moving, for I am anxious to know. I sent a Home Missionary to Kate yesterday.

Edward Hitchcock Jr.

Mrs. O. W. Hitchcock Amherst Mass.

Envelope: Mrs. O. W. Hitchcock, Care of Prof. Hitchcock,
Amherst Mass.

Postmark: Easthampton Mass. March 6

Letter 130

[EHJ to OWH, 16 March 1845, EOH, Series 10-A, Box 25, Folder 8]

Williston Seminary Mar 16th 1845

Dear Mother

As the long desired chance has now arrived I will improve it by stealing a little time. I have been well since my last letter except that I have had rather a bad cold. I have got by this time fully settled in my room, having although to sit some times in my chair later than I want to at night which was contrary to Father's directions so much so that I must drop my Algebra for the present: so you must see that I have something to do that is to get four pages in Cicero every day but Sunday and four pages of Greek four times a week. I have to study much harder this term than I ever have had to in terms back to be able to keep up with my classes. I tore my old pantaloons one of the first days of the tournament and got the tailor to mend them and paid him in a ninepence, but they tore again the very next day, so I sent them home for you to mend with some valuables in the pockets. The shells I have described in the last letter and I send a small piece of copper from Bristol to Father and another specimen from the same place which I want to know the name of. I send home that neck handkerchief to be washed which, if I do not come home before the 15th you may send over at the first opportunity.

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A party of us going over Mt Tom yesterday we followed the tracks of a bird in the snow over a mile or two which was five inches and three quarters from the middle toe to the heel! and the other toes were 4 inches long and we all thought they were tracks of a wild turkey, so that in Father's allegory the last wild turkey Mt. Tom was not present at that convention of animals. I cannot think of anything else except that I would like them at the first opportunity. Please write soon and tell me whether Prof. Adams has come or not, and what is said or not about the President.

Your dutiful son

Edward Hitchcock, Jr.

PS If I come home at the Inauguration and stay I think I shall not probably not come home before, but do write and tell me soon. I shall need that shirt which you began, as soon as you can get it done. I have sent you half a cake of soap, which is the very best thing for taking grease spots from all cloth and silks. Please write soon.

Edward Hitchcock, Jr.

Mrs. O. W. Hitchcock, Amherst, Mass.

Envelope: Mrs. O. W. Hitchcock, Amherst

Letter 131

[OWH to Bela White, 26 October 1846, EOH, Series 10-B, Box 25, Folder 19]

[Several large tears in the pages of this letter]

Amherst October 26, 1846

My...know it is a...in ages...Catherine... in answer...which... and none of us have received a letter from since—have you written and the letter not received or have you not written? I felt very much grieved that your friend Dr. Cowles made himself so scarce while he was in Amherst. I did not know until late in the spring that he was in town, then he called in the day of one of our college exhibitions. I invited him to stop and dine with us, but he excused himself by saying that he had been out of town and must return home to dinner. When I saw him again in the afternoon at the exhibition I invited him to tea he said he would accept my invitation. Accordingly I looked for him after the audience had dispersed and not seeing him I supposed he had gone to visit the cabinet or some other public rooms and went home expecting he would come over to tea and waited a suitable time for him, but he came not – the next thing I heard of him was that he was about to be married to a lady in Enfield, and the next that he was married and was in town. I suppose of course I should have at least a call from him as I told him especially I should like to send by him to you so I got my letter...

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...all ready with a small bundle containing a pair of shawls which Mary had been working for you, a few pamphlets but I began to fear that he was so taken up with his new wife as to forget me and sent my children up to his fathers with the bundle—they said he had left about an hour before and he must have passed...Mr. Williams...preached at his treatment...in about three months, the package was returned to

me. My husband wanted very much to see him and I wanted him to see my family together that he might report to you what a likely looking family I have. As he disappointed me I must attempt a little description of them. Mary the eldest is a big girl probably would weigh a third more than her mother – except in bodily size she does not make a great show in the world – she is very diffident and retiring as you may recollect she was when young – she is very domestic in her habits and her assistance in the family is a great service to me. She is a lover of nature and very fond of cultivating plants – she has the entire care of my houseplants, also of the canary bird – the little dog always looks to her for his dinner – a number of these little household cares seem to come within her providence which relieves me greatly. Though she is fleshy and looks like a perfect picture of health she is much afflicted with nervous complaints so as to sometimes produce a good deal of suffering.

Catherine is more literary in her tastes—she does not love domestic work but dearly loves her book—is fond of society, has warm friends. She has been engaged in teaching during the summer in Haverhill New Hampshire. She is so said to resemble me in her looks more than any of my children – indeed the likeness is so great that she has been mistaken for me by some of my friends who have not seen me since I was at her age...school of mechanical...his father thinks might as well have learned some trade as to get an education. We hope he will be a useful man if he is not a great one. These three elder children are hopefully pious and are all professors of religion. Then we have a younger set of children – Jane is just in her teens and rather wild, but she has a good mind and the grace of God should rudder her heart, we hope she may be able to accomplish something in the world...Charles is ten and in general is what we call a good boy— he has commenced the Latin and is doing well for his age – both Edward and Charles are thought to look very much like their father. Emily the youngest is nearly eight – she is very active in her habits and has an inquisitive turn of mind – a pretty good scholar for her age. She is the only daughter who has blue eyes – does not resemble he father's family at all.

I do not know how much you will be interested in this description of my children I thought you would excuse my introducing them in this way which seems to be the only one by which you can be acquainted at all—they often speak of you and wish very much they could see their mother's brother.

...the duties in the...he will not be able to...them long but I hope you are willing to be guided by Providence in all our duties not doubting but we shall be directed aright if we implicitly trust in Him.

My husband and children all desire an affectionate remembrance to you.

Your affectionate sister

O. W. Hitchcock

Envelope: Mr. Bela White, Ottumwa, Wapello County, Iowa
Postmark: Amherst, Ms. Oct. 28

Letter 132

[OWH to her children, 1 April 1847, EOH, Series 10-B, Box 25, Folder 16]

N. York April 1st 3 o'clock PM 1847

Dear Children,

I have only a few moments just to say that we expect to start in an hour for Philadelphia where we hope to arrive about 10 o'clock on our way to Richmond. Whether we shall make the latter place this week may be uncertain. But we hope to be there in a few days and to that place we want you to address your letters. And we hope you may do it soon for we have as yet heard nothing from you since we left. We felt almost sure of a letter today: but found none. We hear that you have been blocked up with snow lately and we should think all N. England to be covered with it by the cold. The night before last it snowed three inches deep at Orange where we spent the night at Mr. Parker's with Mr. and Mrs. Sprague and cousin Caroline. [Caroline White Sprague, widow of Jay White]

The weather has been very unfavorable here most of the time since we came and I have suffered dreadfully from the truncations of my uvula so that you must not expect me to say anything of improvement. As to the future I know nothing but desire to leave all in the hands of God. If he has any anything...

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...more for me to do he will recover me. If not why should I wish to be continued a usurper number of the ground.

I cannot learn anything farther that I knew when I left home about the fate of our petition at Boston. I have thought that the delay in the matter is unfavourable. But I shall not worry myself about it.

Ma's health is good. I write this while she goes out to make a call upon a lady who has shown her attentions.

Remember us affectionately to the officers of College and others enquiring – I will not enter upon any domestic or personal matters. Tell Edward however to day to Dr. Tower that Dr. Green declares to me that he has in a great many instances put the sponges with nitrite of silver to the bottom of the trachea where the bronchial tubes branch off! He has not put it down so deep into my throat but has repeatedly gone below the epiglottis.

In great haste in serious most affectionately yours.

E. H. Hitchcock

Envelope: Miss Mary Hitchcock, Amherst, Mass.

Postmark: N. York, Apr 3

Letter 133

[OWH to her children, 18 August 1848, EOH, Series 10-B, Box 25, Folder 16]

Atlantic House, Wells Beach, Maine

Thursday, August 18th 1848

Dear Children

I thought you might like to hear from us by this time and of our progress. Ma and myself spent the sabbath in Newburyport. Edward and Hartwell joined us on Monday. Excepting Ma we went on that day to Wells Depot and spent the next day in Sanford in getting minerals. Day before yesterday I came to this Beach where is a hotel and last evening Ma came on from Newburyport. Edward and Hartwell went on to see Bowdoin College and have not yet got back at least have not come here as I expected. Perhaps they will come to day if the heavy northeast storm does not prevent. Ever since I have been here I have suffered from the cold although a few miles inland I understand they are sweating with the heat. I have put on all the winter clothes I brought along yet cannot keep warm. I do not think it agrees with me to be in such a place although delightful in many respects. But since Ma has joined me I think we shall stay a few days and see how it agrees with her.

If you have time I should be glad to have you send the two pamphlets and Popular Descriptions...

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...of the new Cabinet and Observatory and the Addresses made at the Dedication of the same to all the donors and the building out of Amherst evapt. Sand Stone and John Tappan. Please send also to Honorable David Sears of Boston Professor Lasell of Williamstown and Dr. Wheeler of Burlington Vermont.

I do not know how long we shall stay here but think we may turn homeward say by the middle of next week. If anything occurs rendering it desirable to inform us you had still better direct to Newburyport care of Captain Joshua Hale. I regret that we have heard nothing from home since we left nor do I see how we can at present for this place is so much out of the way that at Newburyport they do not as yet know how to direct a letter to reach us.

I shall leave room for Ma to add anything she may choose and perhaps she will add nothing but love which you will accept from us both and believe us.

Affectionately yours

Edward Hitchcock

[From Orra]

As for myself I have been suffering extremely from the heat the greater part of the time since I left home and was glad to reach here where I can say I am cool—yesterday I went to Plum Island with a party of 10 and we went into the ocean and spent half an hour and enjoyed it exceedingly. Tell Charlie I thought of him and do not wonder he loves to go in the river—but if he would have been with us

yesterday it would have been exquisite—there were two gentlemen with us and we ducked and splattered each other and had the greatest frolic you could imagine.

Harrison is to preach next Sabbath and we intend to stay and hear him—but I felt that I must go and try the beach and though we have a cold N.E. storm I can enjoy sitting by the window to see the waves of the mighty ocean rush to break along the shore in a very poetic mood.

Mr. Tappan with fourteen of his family friends are here. Elizabeth has collected a bag full of sea weeds ("flowers of the sea") which she is to carry home and press—I shall try to collect a few specimens if I can carry them home—hope you are getting along nicely at home but I want to hear it from your own pen. When C. Clark goes to help you which I trust he will as soon as Monday I shall feel quite relieved for you – as to the dairy department, you had better scald the milk every day—it will give you less trouble on the whole—mail goes soon.

OWM

Envelope: Miss Mary Hitchcock, Amherst, Massachusetts
Return address: North Berwick Maine 8mo18

Letter 134

[Harrison Newhall to OWH, 6 March 1849, EOH, Series 10-A, Box 25, Folder 9]

Prescott Mass. March 6, 1849

Applicant—Miss Harriet Francis Lindsey—aged 20 July 23, 1848—could probably enter the middle class were it not for the Latin required(?)—"General characteristics" Figure rather small—rather fleshy—dark hair, eyes, and skin—fine looking—amiable—womanly—very sensible—anxious for improvement—soon to unite with the Orthodox Congregational Church in this place—

Mother Hitchcock

That'll do – won't it? Now please write "O.W. Hitchcock" under that, and send it in as a request from a personal friend, and see if it Miss L. has any rule by which her Medo-Persian laws may be relaxed a little "seeing it's you" as the peddlers are said to say – Miss L. can—if I remain here—be prepared tolerably in Latin I think but please ask how little will do for a young lady so well recommended as you and I shall...

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...present Miss L. If possible, induce Miss Lyon to send a catalogue to me, and answer you immediately—and if "we" can, "we" will fit Miss L. to enter Holyoke next fall.

Had a letter from Kate since I saw you—didn't seem to be in favor of spending a week here just yet – I

should have attended the funeral today—as I wished to very much—but engagements here made it next to impossible—I regret my absence—how strangely death smites of late—my “old familiar faces” are paling faster than ever before—every week brings me tidings of here one, and their one—gone. It makes me tremble, almost—for you know me of old—my hopes and fears—and I am as of old—only I haven't the time necessary to sink down, and take a thorough-going gloom—But some things look gloomy, very—

I am perplexed about Mr. H's proposal—I wish for relaxation—change—need it—and perhaps are “called” to go to Deerfield—I could wish the call a little more unquestionable – i.e. I wish to see more clearly what duty is. Here I am grieved and alarmed to see no more conversions—encouraged by seeing so regular and general attention and attendance – or in...

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...-creasing Sabbath school—active young converts—encouraging circumstances—It seems to me that six months more would bring this congregation into shape, and increase the numbers of this church, could I stay and operate in certain directions—for I know men and things here better than most men would (no boasting) in the same time, for I have been studying the place—and general inducement seem strong—(as to pay I have had it—thanks to God! Souls are the very best salary—as to the money, I don't know—I have received \$50 already) and yet as Mr. H. says—this may be just the time for me to go. There are forty men who will go to Deerfield, but who will come to Prescott? Then, if Latin is required, Miss L. must have a teacher—daily—that's all—on my word—

I think Mr. H. overrates my ability to countermine Unitarians—but he is very kind, and I hope he won't think me selfvilled, if I am finally resolved to stay here—Perhaps he has sometimes been in doubt.

Last evening and this forenoon wrote $\frac{3}{4}$ an hour's address for the closing of our Lyceum and delivered it this evening. Good night—let me hear as soon as practicable—I may write soon again—or come myself –

Yr aff "Son" Harrison (Newhall?) [In pencil]

[Along the edge of the page]

If Latin can be taken off it must be—please inquire definitely about that—as above—I am sorry to trouble you but you may trouble me sometime.

Letter 135

[OWH to MH, 16 July 1849, EOH, Series 10-B, Box 25, Folder 15]

Amherst July 16th 1849.

My dear Mary,

I am glad to hear that you have got fairly under hydropathic treatment and hope it may be doing you good. By this time you can probably form some opinion of its effects. If Dr. Bodertha [sp.?] is decidedly

of opinion that you will be benefited by continuing at the establishment for a time I think you had better do so if you find it pleasant. I suppose you may be in want of money ere long. Let us know how that matter stands and I will send some. If you should not pay Dr. B. when you leave I suppose he will be willing to trust you till I can send the money.

I thought some of coming to New Lebanon: but Mr. Hartwell and I went week before last to Deerfield and spent most of it in that region. If I can we think of starting this week to go down Connecticut river perhaps to its mouth. I find it hard to get away long: yet my health seems to require it. One cannot go to the cities on account of the cholera and I suppose it exists or has existed at Saratoga.

I shall leave the remainder of the...

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...sheet to be filled by some other members of the family and with respects to Dr. Bodertha and wife I remain

Your affectionate father

Edward Hitchcock

The first thing I have to tell you is that for the last few days we have been enjoying those splendid flowers on your *Cactus spinosa*. They come out one at a time and last two or three days. The last is out today in all its glory—I think a more splendid flower I never saw. It considerably resembles the *Caster* species in form and arrangement of the stamens—but each of the inside petals are bordered with a broad margin of rich purple which greatly increases the richness and beauty of it. We all regretted that you could not see it but hope you are enjoying other things much more particularly improving health. We want you to get along as fast as you can, in order to get home, for Commencement is only a little ahead.

Last week the weather was extremely hot and dry. We could only subsist. Yesterday and today have been much cooler, but the drought is very severe. You know how our garden always suffers and there is no one to fill your place in watering it. I believe if the plants could speak they would call out for Mary to come with her watering pot or rather for the rains from heaven to fall upon the thirsty earth. But we have a tongue to speak and are too apt to neglect to ask God to send us these blessings.

Last Friday was your birthday I suppose you and I suppose if you had been at home you would have celebrated it by going to an evening party as the rest of us will at the Mr. James Kellogs hot as it was—Father and I made short metre of it, for the bell rang nine before we arrived there and we were home at ten.

During the Sabbath we had for guests an Indian and his lady of the Ojibwa tribe—dressed in full Indian costume. They attended chapel with us in the morning and Mr. Calkins in the afternoon. Of course they attracted a great deal of attention. In the evening he lectured on temperance in the chapel. His name

was Cawshawgance – twenty seven years old and his wife whom he has recently married about twenty. He is in a course of education at Philadelphia with the intention of preaching to his own people when he is qualified—they appeared intelligent and amiable and we were quite delighted with them.

Pauline Bent is published and besides this I do not think of any other neighborhood news to communicate. One thing more though, and that is our new organ is up and being played on every day morning and evening prayers—as well as on Sabbath—it is very fine—

All send love—write again soon –

Your affectionate mother

With regards to Dr. and Mrs. Bodertha

Envelope: Miss Mary Hitchcock, New Lebanon Springs, N. York
Care of Doctor Bodertha

[Note: Dr. Norman Bedortha (1811-1883) of the “eclectic school of physicians” established a sanitarium in Lebanon Springs, NY, that included a “large water cure and hotel,” then moved to Saratoga Springs.]

Letter 136

[OWH to her children, 12 August 1850, EOH, Series 10-B, Box 25, Folder 16]

London August 12 (1850) [In pencil]

My dearest children

I am very glad the Dr. is writing to you today because it will probably be some time before we can write again if we carry out our plan of leaving here tomorrow—I suppose he will say all that is necessary but I always have the feeling that I must speak too.

Well, you are all all over commencement—and I can well imagine the state of your house today—the groaning of the washtub under the numbers of linen sheets and pillowcases and towels—the desolation of the rooms that have so recently been filled with delightful visitors. These things are so strongly impressed upon me from having them repeated for more than twenty years, that I almost feel the fatigue and loneliness and the relief of having got through commencement week even here in my noisy room. I do not realize at all that I am in the great city of London and will you not think me very stupid that I scarcely think of going in the street today and that I spent all the day on Saturday here and did not put any foot outdoors.

I am sure it would not be so with you – nor would it once with me I am sure—I often think of some if my children went in my stead how much of...

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...valuable matter they would pick up and carry home that I pass by—I hope you may sometime in your lives have the opportunity if you wish it—but hope it maybe earlier and before you are so nearly worn out as your father and I are— the meeting at Edinburgh was one of very great interest—I enjoyed it more than I expected—the faces of some of those great men such as Sir David Brewster, Sir Roderick Murchison—Professor Jameson, Dr. Mantell, etc., became quite familiar to me—I attended all the public meetings—heard many of the papers read in the sections—went to the conversations and attended one party at Prof. Jamison's where things were done up in very good style—the Prof.—by which title your father only is recognized—here was often in that invited to breakfast and dinner and frequently went—I think he endured the fatigue of the meeting very well. And I hope has gained some in regard to his health since I last wrote and is in better spirits. I think it cheers him some to begin to talk of setting our faces homeward before very long or rather it would do so if it were not for in crossing that perilous ocean again. In crossing before surely God was better to us than our fears and though the return is more dangerous voyage at that season of the year we do know and try to feel that the same Almighty power is able to carry us back in safety, if it will be for the best for us and you and the most of God's glory and if not, we ought not to deserve it.

I hoped we should get a letter before we left here, but the steamer is not yet in and if we go tomorrow morning we cannot have it. Do not envy us that sail upon the Rhine—I expect it will be a delightful one—though if the weather be bad it will do much to prevent the enjoyment and today it is looking very unpropitious.

I suppose Mary will soon be off to Hartford and I am thinking how that your Kate's silk bed quilt will perhaps get quilted during this vacation for I do not see how you can have done it before and yet I will hope you would have it done for commencement. I want to hear all about the exercises of the week—did the Henry Edwards get there – Gov. Briggs—Prof. Edwards etc. . Edward will soon be off to Easthampton what will you do for a brother there besides Charlie. Please remind Charlie that he has not written the first line yet to us.

Since writing the above Mr. T. has received a letter from his daughter near Edinburgh in which she speaks of the Edwards return so but I hope you have seen him at Amherst.

There are a great many Americans traveling in Europe, you can hardly go amiss of them—Mr. Buddington has just returned from the continent—says he meets them in great numbers there.

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This is a delightful looking letter to send so far but the consultation is that there will be no extra postage. If any of you want anything in particular to be purchased do send word what it is—we have made really nearly no purchases yet beyond animal necessities. It takes everything to the bottom of the purse for traveling expenses —they are enormous in some instances.

My best love to all and may God bless you always.

Your affectionate mother

OWH

[Written sideways]

Ask Jane if she remembers giving me two little nice rolls of peppermint in Boston. I put them in my pocket and have tasted a great many nice bits and have sometimes given a taste to your father to reverse his drooping spirits. I am now about taking the last bit of it—but shall keep some of Mary's preserved calamus in the paper.

Letter 137

[OWH to daughter, 28 June 1850, EOH, Series 10-B, Box 25, Folder 16]

[Date possibly June 28, Queen Victoria's coronation]

I would but rejoice to hear that Mrs. Persons has finished her course and gone to rest and I am sure it will be doubly sweet to her after such a protracted scene of suffering as that through which she has passed. My love and sympathy to Mrs. Mack. I feel that she has lost a most excellent mother. Write and tell me all about last Sabbath which I suppose was the day of the in gathering to the church—this is the evening of the religious meetings—I wonder who is preaching or who will be soon for that though it is after 10 here it is not meeting time yet for you but it is bedtimes for my for me night so good so good night. Last evening was faculty meeting—do you have [????] to tell me and tell me the order so that I may think where you are.

Friday morning. The bells are ringing and chiming most merrily all this morning—it is the anniversary of the Queen's coronation which took place in 1837. Great excitement at the breakfast table, by an account of an indignity offered to her Majesty last evening about 6 o'clock. She had been out to call on his regal uncle and was returning to Buckingham palace in an open carriage when a respectable looking man struck her with a small cane upon the head—it bruised her bonnet and she immediately put up her hand and bent it back in its place receiving no injury—but the man was instantly seized and put in custody to be brought to trial this morning. It produced much excitement and before this telegraph all over the kingdom. In the hours after the task placed her Majesty with prince Albert and the prince of Prussia who is here on a resist means of the opener.

We think it would be a capital plan from Mr. and Mrs. Swift to take charge of the Sem. if they would and Mr. S's sister is a most capable woman and had great success in teaching at the South.

Your father is busy writing to someone else or he would say a few words but bids me tell Edward that he has probably sold one of Hartwell's crystals of spodumene to the British Museum, that he is has been offered a guinea (\$5) for it and he thinks a box might be sold on quite as good terms as that, but is not prepared to direct such an one to be sent yet

Continue to direct letters to Baving, Brethans and Company until you hear to the contrary. Tell Mrs. Smith a part of a sheet of this paper covered with some strokes from her pen and enclosed with your letters will greatly enhance the value of the package. Our love to her and her husband and children—and all the rest of the faculty and all other friends—I never valued them so much before.

The doctor is getting quite into business here since his new appointment – writing and receiving letters almost as much as at home – at this moment he is writing an answer to an invitation from Mr. and Lady Emily Percy to dine with them on Saturday 29th at quarter before eight—he must accept the invitation because he is a member of parliament to whom he has applied for information—don't know how good a preparation it will be for the Sabbath. Yesterday he went to Homerton at a public dinner drinking toasts etc. I did not go. It was on the occasion of Doctor Smith's resignation after having been there 50 years—he treated your father with great attention and kindness. I had a call from Lady Lyell and her sister the other morning and since that an invitation we both did. She is very accomplished but not so much of splendor about her apartment as I expected. This business may lead us into Ireland which we should not have visited otherwise – it is not certain we shall now.

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(2nd sheet)

I cannot tell you how glad I was to hear from home—I was really famishing for a letter—but don't be of wall to send two sheets of such paper as that was written upon, certainly if you pay the postage there as your father thinks you have better Mr. Carter think will not find it too much so write more and often—what you may think are very little things would be very acceptable to us—we want to know all about you that we can—do ask somebody else to write the intermediate week if you write only once in a fortnight – Will not some of the college offices write—father sends his love to them and wishes they would do so. He would have written them but has been so hurried and has so little time that he can write—he has not yet sent anything to the N. York Observer so I think he will get off one letter tomorrow with this and when he does get time he means to send to the Express too. You perhaps smile at our want of time but there have been a number of business letters lately to be written. Your father has been appointed a member of the board of commissioners for getting up an agricultural college in Massachusetts by the governor and council and instructed to visit such institutions in England and Ireland and on the continent and he is now busy in making inquiries by letter and otherwise where these institutions are located and when will be the best time to visit them and has not yet received answers. This may modify our plans somewhat and keep us a few days at least longer here and may be detained some longer from home. The truth is we are getting rather tired of staying here—it is becoming irksome, especially as it does not now appear to be benefiting your father's health so much as we hoped it would—he is feeling more discouraged. We thought at first the climate was unfavourable—cold and wet—but of late it has been warm and dry as our June and he thinks now it may be the diet and the unseasonable hours of eating—so when breakfast is at eight rather than prayers at eight then breakfast—white bread and butter boiled eggs, fried ham very fat—cold roast beef and lamb and scarcely anything else. We can if we please lunch between 12 and 2 bread and butter cheese and cold meat

sometimes lobster. Dine at four soup—fish—roast meat of two or three kinds—pudding and pastry. I do not think much of their pastry by the way—but their roast beef and mutton is most excellent and this is all that Englishman care for—except they like to finish off with salad—and meat and cheese. We never have fruit at any meal—which we regret. Tea is at eight though we often take lunch go off on some expeditions and take tea at six or seven.

We are glad to hear you get along so nicely without us—tell Emily I always try to think of her as a very good girl and trying to do whatever others wish her to do seems to gain the love of all—this being the only way to enjoy life. I trust she does not forget Dr. Doddridge's little girl—I want she should improve this opportunity while I am away in getting a character established—which will help her all along through life—so that if I live to return and may have the great pleasure of seeing the improvement she has made in my absence and should I never return she will certainly find it a great use to her in gaining friends and getting through the world pleasantly.

Tell Charlie we are glad to hear so good a report of him—we hope he has made up his mind to lead a useful life and to seek God early and thus be sure of the promise that “he will find Him.”

As so Jane will be home before she gets my letter sent last week to her. I am glad she has made up her mind to profess the religion of Christ before men— hope she may not only prosper but live Christ and find him always near to guide her through life and enjoy his presence forever.

Letter 138

[OWH to children, 28 July 1850, EOH, Series 10-B, Box 25, Folder 16]

Edinburgh July 28, 1850

Dear Mary and Jane in particular and the rest in general

If you could by any means know how much pleasure your letter received yesterday on arriving at this place attended your father or mother I am sure you would be desirous of repeating it before another month for it was just a month yesterday since we received a Kate and Edward's—dated 13th June. I I began to grow so impatient that I could hardly forbear complaining. I imagine yourself (Jane) back to Ipswich homesick and every day feeling your exile from that loved spot—or Ed. transport himself back to Boston where he couldn't not sing "sweet home" if you wish to know what a value we put upon letters. Ask Kate what has become of that paper like what I am writing upon and which I left on purpose for letters to us—you can send one and a half or two sheets of it in a light envelope for a single letter—do more of you right or if one does it, give more particulars over smallest occurrences will give us heartfelt pleasures. What is Kate doing? I know she could fill a sheet every week to one of her friends last winter and here are two of us and she has not written for more than a month. While we remain on the island of Great Britain letters are sent from place to place without any additional postage—it will not be so if we go on the continent—we have been from home eleven weeks tomorrow and three is all the letters we have had from home. Occasionally we hear by the papers from America but in traveling we have not very often found them. Prof. Webster's confession of the murder we saw and heard of his petition to

the Governor [John White Webster, Professor of Geology at Harvard] the result of these efforts we have not heard. General Taylor's death too has reached us and we deeply sympathize in the nation's loss — was any public notice taken of it by you? As there was after General Harrison died—the breaking away of the table rock at Niagara too—these great things we hear about the little ones which you are concerned in at Amherst are equally interesting to us — for instance that short sentence of Jane's— "Emily and Charlie behave very well"—is like pleasant music to our ears—am glad to hear that E. [Emily] is studying under such a good teacher—hope she will make great progress in her studies, in sewing, in staying at home and I would recommend another exercise—that of writing a letter in a small neat hand to send to Europe and let it be corrected by her teacher and put in an envelope and some others and try the voyage — Jane's last first went to London, then to Belfast and from there to Ed. thus visiting the three kingdoms. I should like to know in what particulars Charlie is making progress. As to Jane's studies I can easily believe that she has many interruptions—her only way to accomplish anything...

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...will be to have regular hours which must not be broken in upon by anybody. If Mary attends to the homework I hope she has all the assistance she needs from her younger sisters— and particularly in the sewing department. I am counting the day before commencement with you—hope you will be carried through it safely and honorably—glad you are to have Mrs. Gill—I think your circumstances will excuse you from having a house full.

I cannot tell you much about the preaching here today—I went to church this morning but was so ill that I was obliged to leave the house before the sermon was half completed and did not go out in the P.M. — am better this evening as you see by writing so far but it is ten and I must notice—the evenings hence are very short it is not dark much before ten.

Monday morning. Should be quite happy to assist you in your household duties, I feel so well this morning but mine is a present quite a different sphere. I have said as yet little about the great object of our travels—because from time to time I had hoped to report more favourably about your dear father's health. Some days he appears better and we take much encouragement, but the truth is there is such a complication of diseases in his system that when one hides its head for a little another springs up and shows itself more prominently and all magnified by a nervous weakness and great depression of spirits which is entirely uncontrollable, but evidently a great barrier to improvement. I said to him this morning I am writing home—I shall I tell them you are homesick—he said yes emphatically and I do not say these things to alarm you, but to give you the honest and truthful statement as in a similar case I would be done by—I can hardly say whether traveling or resting is most favourable—sometimes it seems to be one and sometimes the other—the least perplexity has great effect—either is attended with great expense—I have been looking forward to the continental tour with some raised anticipation because the climate will be warmer—we have suffered from the cold considerably, your father in particular—only last week we had a fire all day. Ignorance of the language I am sure will in no way diminish our perplexities—and very likely the weather will be so hot as to trouble us—but we know that it is not in man that walketh, nor rideth, to direct his steps—we try to commit our way unto Him who alone is able to direct aright and be willing to submit to whatever He shall appoint.

When I last wrote which was a short letter enclosed in one to Deerfield we were in Ireland. Belfast is a fine city a thriving business place of 100,000 inhabitants—large manufactories of linen and a very large linen warehouse where it is put up for foreign markets—it is immense and the quantity of goods immense which is sold here—some of the adjoining towns have bleaching fields where there are acres covered with pieces of cloth looking as if they were covered with snow . There is a college here and an agricultural department connected with it which we visited—breakfasted with one of the professors— from here we went to the Giant’s causeway—travelling the whole distance in the Irish jaunting cars you have heard these described I suppose—two rows of seats sitting our backs to each other and luggage between so that we know nothing of those on the opposite seat and no cover to shelter from dust or sun or rain—though in the public one there is a seat front with the driver and another behind – sixteen of us were piled on to the one we started with—but there are smaller ones calculated for four and three on each side – our feet hanging down on the wheels which are so small that it requires but a step to reach your seat they are very comical looking vehicles—first time I got on one was in the night on reaching Dublin and I thought I must make such a ridiculous figure that I indulge myself in laughing the whole distance—glad it was night so that I could not be seen. The potato crops in Ireland looked beautifully—but the people poorly clad and miserable looking houses—women doing all sorts of outdoor work—many with bare heads and legs—many of the houses deserted the inhabitants gone to America—houses built of stone, thatched roofs, frequently but one small window, the door too short for a man to stand upright, earth floor sunken, no yard or tree or anything that looked like comfort—the small villages are built in a continuous row twenty or thirty families connected under the same roof – are generally whitewashed—all one story high. Our ride for many miles along the coast was quite romantic – huge rocks in some places broken and forming arches through which we rode – the causeway looked just as we have seen it in pictures – a most magnificent spot – we sailed around the different places – getting views from various points – the highest 400 feet. One of nature’s great wonders – but here we were terribly beset with beggars, not ragged children and old women but strong and hardy men. In the first place they want you to buy specimens, to get tobacco and if you will not help them to that, then give us some money, give us a six pence – give us something – refusing would not silence them – but they go off muttering. Those who do not regularly beg, will continue to filch money from your pocket in some way. Even in Belfast that beautiful thriving place you are constantly annoyed with beggars—I resorted to an expedient which I found to work pretty well—whenever I went out I furnished myself with food in my pockets—and whenever these poor miserable creatures assailed me I gave them a piece of bread, or something eatable and they would go away looking greatly satisfied.

While in Dublin we saw a ship loading with immigrants for N. York—they're constantly going and no wonder if they can only get enough together to carry them there. We spent one week in Ireland and then came to Scotland—first to Glasgow whence the Tappans joined us again and took a tour into the Highlands. We sailed a few miles up the Clyde (get your maps and see) on its banks the scenery was more like our own in N. Eng. than any we have seen before—there we passed the famous Loch Lomond and then got up among the Highlands—passed through the vale of Glencoe – Ossian’s birthplace—you would readily suppose that the peculiarity of the scenery might cause the peculiarity of style in which he wrote—the objects are few but striking mountains of peculiar forms and scarcely no inhabitants and very little of anything that has animal life—patches of snow now frequently appeared. At Fillan’s holy pool by the wayside which Scott speaks of – the harebell – the purple heath – “The primrose pale and violet flowers, Found in each cliff or narrow cleavage” and “Where resisting torrents down hill borne

And heaped upon the cumbered land. Its wreck of gravel, rocks and sand." To say the least all these highlands are very particular.

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We were in sight of Ben Nevis the highest mountain – areas of snow upon it – went north as far as Fort Williams whence we spent the Sabbath and heard one sermon in Gaelic without understanding a word. Monday Mr. T. and your father went a few miles further north to see the parallel roads of Glen Ray of geological interest. We saw considerable of the highland dress of the men here and got some pictures to carry home—but their naked limbs look better on paper than in real life. Then we went to Oban a watering place and spent four days. Mr. and Mrs. T. visited Staffer and Iona from here—the father not being well thought best not to go and I stayed with him. Returned to Glasgow and thence to Edinburgh. This is the most beautiful city we have seen. Spent the the Sab. at a hotel and now we have taken lodgings in the same house where Prof. Owen and wife are expected to spend the week. We have our bedrooms and parlor in company with the Tappans—get an order of our own food and have it worked where and how we please—wish you could stop in and see how well we are living—very nice house in front is a porch quite elegantly furnished. Mr. O's parlour is in princely style for which he gives seven guineas a week—we do not come up to that – but our bedroom is 48 steps high and we give 20 shillings (5 dollars) for that—this is the best we could do and be respectable.

Wednesday 31 July. We have just received your letter of 14 October was so good and well filled we are very very thankful for it—the meeting commences this evening and we intend to go but I am sure I shall often think of you at home in the Social Fac. meetings—we give my most cordial love to them all—we have be in bed before you take your ice cream—I shall very likely dream about it—for I do now almost every night dream of some home scene. I take back all that scolding to Kate for not writing—for she has done her part well—and I would if I could almost suppose what I wrote on page 2^d about your father's health—he feels so much better now—but really he was miserable last week and then lost a good deal of flesh and I felt sad and dispirited—I feel better now a great deal better. The Snell's letter came today too I suppose the anniversary of South Hadley comes off this week should like to hear more about Miss Whitman and who is to carry on that school next year. Hope Mary will get reunited by going to Hartford—you must be a little careful and not suffer her to go beyond her strength— perhaps she feels too much of the responsibility in her parent's absence – relieve her if that is the case. I want you to make a good domestic character of your young sister Emily. Love to everybody that inquires for us. I mean all who love us. What about the revival in the village and the friends of it. Mr. E Dickinson's family—Shipley and others of those remarkable cases in college.

My steel pen plows up the paper so as greatly to impede my writing—I think your father will add the other half sheet – Mrs. T. wishes a very particular remembrance to you—Josiah and Elizabeth were at in N. Hampton a little while ago—I hoped they could make you a visit. You cannot know what I comfort Mr. and Mrs. T. are to us—could you not get Susan Mandy for a domestic after her engagement to Mrs. Dickinson terminates.

Thursday Last evening we attended the meeting—it was so large about 300 members present—15 foreigners—212 ladies—An introductory address by Sir David Brewster—reporting the progress of the

society – particularly the last year—it was in a larger music hall – beautifully lighted with gas— comfortable seats – and a very intellectual looking audience—but I will not undertake any account of this for we have obtained a paper this morning and will send you that—keep the paper if you please and not have it destroyed.

Letter 139

[EH to children, 12 August 1850, EOH, Series 10-B, Box 25, Folder 16]

London August 12th 1850

My dear Children

We returned to this centre of the world on Saturday from Scotland. We came by railway the whole distance 200 miles to York on the eastern side of England and the next day 219 miles along the central parts through Derby. The whole 427 miles is a complete garden nearly all cultivated. The farmers have begun harvesting the oats and in a few places the wheat. The potatoes look to me as if smitten by disease but not badly. We passed over several coal fields on our way the largest of which is that around Newcastle. Over the wide plain you will see a multitude of high chimneys sending out so much smoke as too darken the atmosphere. The fires move the steam engines at the pits where they dig the coal. It startles one to feel that the whole plains over which you are riding is undermined. Gentlemen who live here tell me that the ground settles enough sometimes to wreck the walls of their houses. Newcastle coal is the basis of England's prosperity and even existence as a civilized nation. So that the poet has hardly exaggerated it when he says

"Then let this truth reciprocally run;
The sun's heaven's coalery, and coals our Sun."

[Source: Poem by Abraham Cowley]

Edinburgh is a magnificent city: yet exhibiting a strange contrast of peculiar elegance and sordid poverty and filth. Some of the streets are elevated fifty feet above others even side by side and if one chances to get into any of these lower streets he holds his breath and hastens his escape. I have sent two letters to the N. Y. Observer giving an account of the meeting of the British Association—one of which goes with this letter—I know not whether that paper inserts any of my communications as we rarely see any American...

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...newspapers and know but little of what is transpired in the United States except the more striking events. You cannot conceive how trying it is to be thus shut out from our native land. For one I am

heartily wearied out with the state of banishment and it seems to me that if I could only be permitted to reach home to die it would be in an unspeakable blessing. I do not mean that my health is worse than it has been. Indeed while on our northern tours we expecting two or three rather severe attacks I thought it some better. But I am fairly tired out with wandering through great cities and meeting only strange faces and entering the filth of lanes and sewers and being obliged continually to live in a contained manner and upon an unwholesome (to me) diet. Yet we are just preparing to start for the Continent—especially to the Peace Congress next week at Frankfurt. What may befall us in this tour we cannot know but we are trying to commit ourselves entirely to the evidence of that friend Providence who has thus far sustained and guided us effectually as by miracle. Should we live to return hither we shall hope to turn our faces towards home perhaps along about the first of October though we have not yet decided that point. We have been hesitating between the Atlantic for the 29th September and the British Steamship Asia which sails on the 5th of October. I think I shall delay a short time in coming to a decision. We expect to start tomorrow morning for Belgium by way of Dover and Calais.

We had hoped to receive letters from home at this place but find none. We thank you for remembering us so often but wish we would hear oftener. We want to know how things went off in Commencement. I trust you there saw Mr. Henry Edwards who was with us before we left London and whose arrival in U. States we have heard. Our thoughts turn of late very much in spite of ourselves toward home. I wish that we could exchange places with you after the remaining of our tour and give you an opportunity to examine old castles and abbeys and cathedrals and crowded cities with their long streets of stone houses and the beggars into the bargain of all of which we are tired because we have seen so many of them. But perhaps Providence may sometime or other give you this opportunity. While you are young enough to enjoy it I think you could all take a walk which I have just taken through Cheapside and over London Bridge. You would be amazed at the number of people you meet and the constant crowd of carriages so that I have often been obliged to wait several minutes before I did run across narrow Cheapside. Then too the Thames is half covered with steamboats of every form and size. But really I have got in the habit of not looking at the people I meet any more than I should at the trees in the forest only just enough to keep from running against them and I could solve a mathematical problem as well in Cheapside as in the forest if I were not afraid of being run over. Why should I look at men when there is no chance of recognizing one out of 500,000?

Say to Professor Snell that his letter has been received and that I will often attend to his request if I get to Paris. Tell him that I should have been glad to show him the North Star in the Highlands of Scotland in Lat. 57°. It seemed almost in the Zenith. I wish also I could have shown him the noble looking mathematicians and astronomers whom we saw in Edinburgh—Sir David Brewster, Sir William Hamilton, Professor Robinson and Prof. Arving. Dr. B. has one of the finest countenances with a white head that I ever saw. Sir W. Hamilton looks a good deal like Professor Agassiz and Dr. Robinson looks like himself and a fine head he has. We were invited strongly by Sir W. Jardine to go and spend a day or two with him at Avondale where he digs out fossil footmarks and I now regret that I did not accept that invitation.

The evening is advancing we start quite early and I can only invoke the best of heaven's blessings upon you all.

From your affectionate father

E Hitchcock

PS I directed a newspaper to Charles a few days ago containing an account of the British Association

(The following thoughts occurred to me while listening at Fort Williams in the Highlands of Scotland to a very long sermon in Gaelic of which I understood not a word)

1

From those on earth we fondly love
What stormy treacherous seas divide
Oh shall we reach those friends again
Or shall we sink beneath the tide?

2

From those we love in heaven too,
We're parted by an ocean's roar;
We tremble, lingering on the brink,
And fear a stormy passage o'er.

3

Yet once safe there, and every friend,
Beloved of God, above, below,
Shall meet when seas no more divide,
And stormy winds no longer blow.

4

Oh God! To Thee we all resign
To see on earth, our friends once more,
How sweet! Yet if that boon's desired,
Oh grant reunion on that shore.

Letter 140

[OWH to EHJ, 9 June 1850, EOH, Series 10-B, Box 25, Folder 14]

Cowes, Isle of Wight, June 9th 1850 Sabbath Evening

My dear Son,

We addressed a letter to you and the other children about a fortnight ago from Liverpool and we thought we would not write you again till we should reach London. But our tour through Wales and the west of England has lasted longer than we expected and I thought I would drop you a few lines from this place where we spend the Sabbath.

We have had a most delightful excursion through the most romantic part of Wales and the west of

England and in a geological interest of great variety. I shall not enter into details now as they would fill sheets. If I should find time I hope ere long to describe some of the scenes through which we have passed in the N. York Observer or Journal of Commerce or Boston Puritan Recorder probably the first. We have traveled mainly by Post Coaches—a delightful though more expensive way—some by stages and some by Rail Road. We have ascended on ponies the highest mountains of England. These I have measured with an aneroid barometer which I purchased in Liverpool and which has answered the purpose nobly giving the height of Snowden within 40 feet and of Cader Idris within seven feet. I have also traced out the course of glaciers through some of the valleys of Snowdonia. If you take a map of England and Wales and find on it Chester, Conwy...

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...Bangor and Caernarvon (on Menai Straits), Llanberis, Dolgellau, Machynlleth, Newtown, Montgomery, Ludlow, Leominster, Hereford, Monmouth, Chepstow, Bristol (Clifton), Bath, Salisbury, and Southampton you will have an idea of our route. It has been full of interest and almost every sort. In addition to natural beauties we have visited several of the oldest and largest cathedrals old and splendid castles with their ivy, their rooks and jackdaws and one or two splendid abbeys enough indeed to satisfy Catherine were she with us. But these matters are put into the special keeping of Ma who I trust will describe them in due time.

We came here by steamboat last evening and hope to see several parts of the island before we leave for London. Today we found ourselves unexpectedly within a mile or two of the royal family who are residing at the Osborne house and so we thought we would go a couple of miles to attend the Wittingham Church [Whippingham] where they usually worship. We got a seat within ten feet of her Majesty her mother the young princess and Prince Albert. We should not have known them from others by anything in their dress and appearance and they behaved very well during services. The queen looks rather old for a person a little over 30. But should she be taken away and the government will give me a commission I think I can find some thousands of women in Great Britain that would fill her place well. And I do not say this disparagingly for I have an unusually high respect for Victoria. We consider ourselves quite fortunate to have seen the Royal Family here as it was in dishabille when we might have failed in London for a long time to see them at all.

Last Sunday I preached to a Welsh congregation in Dolgelly [Dolgellau?] half a day very few of whom understood English: but my sermon was afterwards interpreted by Rev. Mr. Rees of Liverpool. They are Congregationalists and I consented to preach to show my sympathy with them rather than in the hope of doing much good directly. I have searched in vain in Wales for the place from which I have been told the Hitchcock family originated. Nobody here ever heard of Uffculme. [Perhaps a reference to Uffculme in Devon near Exeter UK?] The Welsh language differs so much from the English as the Sanscrit or Hindustani. In some places the English is scarcely spoken. In one place where we stopped during a hailstorm no one but our coachman (who although he may be 70 years old calls himself Postboy) could converse with any of the people.

I should be glad to give a better account of my health than I am able to do. I was reduced a good deal by the voyage and have not yet recovered the tone of my stomach nor my flesh though I hope I am somewhat improving. If anything could recruit one it would seem as if journeying as we do would accomplish it. I think the air here is too cold and too damp for me. I have not yet doffed any of my winter clothes and on Saturday rode with a great and thick cloak and yet suffered from the cold. Yet the country is covered in grass and flowers and looks like a garden—and some days they call hot here. I wish

we could let them feel one of our July days.

We hope tomorrow to commence a trip around the island and then in a few days to go hence to London from whence we shall hope to write you again and also we hope there soon to have letters from home. We suppose you have yet hardly learned of the arrival of the Canada. If we visit the locality of the Young cottages Ma will feel prepared to write to Jane.

I have much more to say but it is late and I must stop. May that same Providence which has watched over us with a fondness and a care little short of miraculous be the ground and the guide of our children and friends whom we have left at home! This shall be a constant prayer whether we ever see them in this world or not.

I think you had better direct your letters to the care of Messrs. Baring, Brothers and Company London. Let me us know all that is transpiring in College and in the family and believe me ever affectionately your father. Edward Hitchcock

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London June 13th 1850

Dear Son, We went entirely around the Isle of Wight – a most romantic trip—crossed over to Portsmouth and staid at Brighton—the city of palaces—overnight and came up to London yesterday where the pleasantest thing we met was a letter from home. God be thanked that it informed us of your welfare only a little more than a fortnight ago.

I have spent three hours today in trying to find some mineralogist who could tell me the value of your 's spodumene of which I brought along one crystal. But I have failed though and I doubt not I could dispose of all the crystals I have at a good rate. But when I shall see Mr. Heuland if I can find him I shall learn something more definite as to its value. I hope you will be able to keep the control of the locality a little longer. Mama is writing a letter to Jane which will probably be sent by the steamer next week and perhaps I can tell you more then. This I must put into the office this evening and therefore must close. Truly yours E.H.

Four weeks this morning since we left home—but it seems as if I had lived almost an age—but I have just one moment while waiting breakfast to write and to say that I am well and full of enjoyment almost every hour. I am glad we took this tour before going to London—no doubt we have enjoyed it more and be better prepared to plunge into the metropolis. I shall write again soon—hope to find a letter in London about Wednesday or Thursday if we have good weather – Love to all the family and everybody else

Your far distant mother

Address: Mr. Edward Hitchcock Jr., Amherst Massachusetts, U. States N. America Via Liverpool
Postmark: July 14, 1850

Letter 141

[OWH to her children, 23 August 1850, EOH, Series 10-B, Box 25, Folder 16]

Frankfurt August 23, 1850

My dear children

I have an opportunity in the morning to send to N. York by a gentleman who is here as delegate to the convention and though it must be a hurried letter I thought I would not suffer the opportunity to pass without so much as saying to you that we are yet in the land of the living and quite far from the place from which we last wrote you, viz. London, if I am not mistaken, about the 12th. If you set as high a value upon a letter from us as we do on as many lines if they contain the gratifying intelligence of health and prosperity as we do from you, you will not grudge a 5 cents postage on as many lines if they contain the gratifying intelligence of health and prosperity. And as to the first we are about as usual—and for the second we have abundant reason for thankfulness since we have been brought on our way without accident or any very calamitous events and this is testifying abundantly of the goodness of our Heavenly Father in the midst of so many dangers seen and unseen. We have had a great deal of rain since we left London. I think there has not been more than one or two days entirely without during this time—though it has scarcely impeded our traveling. But we have been subject to a...

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...great many inconveniences and perplexities on account of our ignorance of the languages of the countries we have passed through. We were often assured that we should not suffer on this account, for that we should find at all the hotels persons that spoke English—but we have found it otherwise—though they pretend in many instances to speak it, it is so imperfect that it is next to impossible to get any ideas.

We crossed the channel from Dover to Calais and passed along into Belgium—the first night we spent in Lisle where the thread is manufactured for the gloves etc. We were rather late in reaching the hotel Bellevue where we intended to spend the night and as it was not very far Mr. T prepared to go with us ladies and your father to go with the baggage which was to be trundled along by hand after he thought he had gone about far enough he began to make some inquiries and by dint of perseverance ascertained that it was carried to the hotel d'Europe and notwithstanding all his remonstrances it still went on to that place—the fellows insisted there was no such hotel as the Bellevue—your father then went back to the station and we had gone and the place was just closing up the night—he finally found a fellow that directed him to another who could speak a little English and he succeeded at last in finding us and took us to the Europe. It was late and rained hard but we just succeeded in making known our wants and had a comfortable night's rest and a breakfast and went on our way. And we have found continual trouble and vexation and imposition and extortion—the effect of which you will readily perceive cannot be very conducive to restoring health to a nervous invalid. We eventually met with Eng. people who have treated us with great kindness – and the countries we have passed through have in general been truly delightful—very delightful and peculiar through Belgium—last Sabbath we spent Bonne—having passed

through Ghent, Aix la Chapelle, Cologne, etc. where we made short stops. At Ghent and Aix we visited cathedrals and convents where we had opportunity to witness the devotees in actual life and worship – and to vespers in one of the convents where were six hundred of the sisters of charity—all with their white veils—large towels I should call them and black dresses—we went in among them, so as to be able to look into their faces and see them count their beads. In one of the Cathedrals we saw some of the precious relics—a lock of the Virgin’s hair—a girdle which she wore, a piece of the cross of Christ and of the cord which bound him—a nail of the cross—a piece of the sponge which was filled with vinegar – arm bone of Simeon, teeth of St. Thomas—having heard that such things were shown we thought best to inquire if it was a reality and to be sure they were exhibited with all sanctity and credulity. These cathedrals are most splendidly and generously decorated—fresh flowers offered to the Virgin who is dressed in all the tinsel and jewels of a medieval queen – here is incense perpetually burning and the confessionals look as if they were frequently visited—the splendor of some of these buildings almost exceeds description.

In Bonn is an agricultural school and a university which father looked into and here we took a steamboat up the Rhine to Baibneck near Wiesbaden where Dr. Sandbergher resides—the Prof. as he is styled here altogether, called upon him in the evening and the box of minerals which Ed. will remember were sent him had not arrived but the next morning when we saw him it had just come.

The scenery upon the Rhine is exceedingly beautiful, but nature has done as much, yes more for the banks of the Hudson—but the beautiful villages with their elegant churches, and the highly cultivated grounds, especially vineyards fitted with great labor, and the old castle and convents, and monuments connected with so many historical associations...

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...and stories of romance are wanting.

The Dr. is writing some account of the convention for the N. Y. Observer to which I refer you rather to attempt any account myself—we are enjoying the felicity of seeing many Americans here this week and of receiving your letter of July 26.

So many interruptions this evening has given me very little time for writing and with your father's love or well as mine to all by name Mary, Kate, Edward, Jane, Charlie and Emily all dear names I subscribe myself your affectionate mother OWH.

Thank Mr. Humphrey for his concern. Kate’s knowledge of German would be invaluable to us here.

Envelope: Mrs. Edward Hitchcock, Amherst, Massachusetts USA

Return address: O. W. Hitchcock

Postmark: September 11

[Written in corner of first page]

We do not forget that it is Charlie's birthday though I have not mentioned it before in my letter—I hope he is spending it properly and is satisfied with having lived thirteen years in sin – and will now consecrate himself to God—This is the wish and prayer of his father and mother.

[Note: EH received honorary Doct. of Div. from Middlebury in 1846]

Letter 142

[OWH to children, 18 September 1850, EOH, Series 10-B, Box 25, Folder 16]

Paris Wednesday 18 September

We have just received your good long letter of September 2—your last letters have taken quite a tour—first to Eng.—then to Germany and Switzerland—thank you for all that home intelligence—but am sorry to hear such a poor story of Amherst College – I acknowledge I have been very remiss in writing of late—the truth is I have had such fatiguing times that I could not write—you would suppose that "a wanderer under the shadow of Mont Blanc" would be filled with poetic ideas, but I tell you it is a very different thing to get onto the back of a mule and ride all day up and down those dreadful roads or walk...

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...a dozen or 15 miles from sitting down and reading about it at home.

We will be thankful that we were carried through it and had delightful weather all the while—that Monarch of the mountains was a most wonderful sight to behold.

Excuse this hasty letter—we just heard that Mr. Murray from Boston will leave Paris in the course of an hour and will call on us before he leaves and we thought but to write a few lines by him that you might know that we are yet in the land of living and longing for the time when we shall (O I cannot say neither longing to sail for we dread that idea worse than ever) longing for the time when we if we may be permitted such a blessing as to reach home.

Paris is a beautiful city—but we are tired of these foreign places and if it was not for being questioned if we have seen this and that when we reach home if we ever do, I believe we should hardly visit another palace here—today have heard the through the Louvre—have been to the Jardin des Plantes but not Pere la chaise yet. Tomorrow we think of going to Versailles where there are nine miles of paintings.

Thank Charlie for his letter—my love to him and Emily and Mary and Kate and Edward and Jane—and all others especially Mrs. Calhoun – tell her I think...

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...much of her prayers and hope she nor any of the rest of you will forget us on the ocean.

We have not received Prof. Warner's letter nor any other member of the faculty except Prof. Snell and Adams.

May God take care of us all and permit us to meet again if it be his will is our daily prayer.

Your affectionate Mother

Hope you will find a good girl soon I hardly know what I can do about importing any. I can hardly give you an idea of our expenses but they are great.

Letter 143

[OWH to EHJ, 18 November 1850, EOH, Series 10-B, Box 25, Folder 16]

Amherst November 18, 1850

Dear Ed

I write you a word or two of advice this morning in regard to your great coats which you spoke of. If I understand the matter it is to take your two coats and exchange them for one which will be more valuable. The fact is that you will get but little for them, because they never consider old garments worth much let the cloth be ever so good on account of being a little out of fashion— that thick one you had last winter I think is just what you want when the weather is cold and especially to ride in. Every lady wants a second garment of that sort if they have a better one and I think your other dark one is quite decent and I am sure the light one looks very well looks and is comfortable. It will be a great sacrifice to do it—and if you go to N. York it will take off your spare coppers if you have any and you ought to economize somewhere to meet the expense and I know not where you can do it better than in wearing a coat that is a little soiled. We have talked the matter over here and Mr. Humphrey and all the rest of us advise to your wearing the old coats. I do not think your respectability or popularity will be much affected by it.

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Mr. Humphrey is expecting to go to Deerfield to lecture before the Lyceum tomorrow evening Providence permitting and your Father is to be in Boston on Wednesday at three P.M. to report to the committee on Agricultural schools D. W.

I have advised your Father (which you see is my province just now) to be taken over to Northampton station tomorrow P.M. and spend the night there and go down by the early train though there is not much probability that he will be ready to do it, but if he should, you could send your trunk by the return of the carriage, or come yourself if you should not conclude to go to N. Y.

And if you wish to be sent for on any particular day please let us know it.

In haste your affectionate mother OWH.

[Written across the edge]

We have invited your uncles Henry and Charles and their wives and Captain Billings and wife to keep Thanksgiving with us.

Letter 144

[OWH to EHJ, 13 December 1850, EOH, Series 10-B, Box 25, Folder 14]

Amherst December 13, 1850

Dear Ed

The Dr. and his daughters are to take a ride to N. Hampton this morning and I send by them a bag of clothing and other necessary things to my sons. Only one of Charlie's coats are finished, but I suppose this one overcoat is the one he most needs—the other I will send when I can get it and have another opportunity.

I do not see how I can get at Mr. Burgess's name from those books, until we can see Mr. Hynes and get his key. John Sanford is teaching with Chapin in Hadley. Charlie is very much missed in various ways. Robinson has gone home on account of his health and Shepard is here trying to take his place—but he is extremely ignorant of barn affairs – the first day the cow kicked a hole through the bottom of the pail and lost the milk—and he fed the pigs only cold dish water without any meal and did not know it was necessary to give Toby any water or air.

I was quite surprised the other morning on receiving two numbers of the bulletin of the A. Ant. Union and much more so the next morning on receiving a certificate of membership from such an unexpected quarter. Yet not less surprised and delighted than gratified—accept my most hearty thanks.

Love to Charlie—I hope his homesickness will not return and that what he did experience will do him great good.

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Whenever he makes a plan to come home if we can know it we will try to meet him.

In much haste

OWH

PS. Father thinks Ure's Dictionary is in Charlie's upright case in his room and it is locked and we can find no key to open it.

Addressed: Edward Hitchcock Jr.
Return address: Mrs. Hitchcock

Letter 145

[OWH to EHJ, September 1851?, EOH, Series 10-B, Box 25, Folder 14]

[Probably written in September, 1851; Edward Jr. was on the faculty at Williston and Charles was a student there; Harrison Newhall was married in Prescott, Mass., Sept. 16, 1851]

Amherst Friday morning

Dear Ed

Your letter was received and is now to be attended to—I will be happy to send you some apples BUT peaches have become so scarce that I fear I shall not be able to find any that are good.

We had a nice little quiet wedding at Prescott but Harrison looks in miserable health—he will be absent perhaps one more Sabbath after the next—then you can write him at his home. I will tell you more about the wedding when I see you.

Do not know when the hair will come off—should be glad to have it before Jane leaves if possible. We expect Kate and Storrs tomorrow and think he or your father will preach at Deerfield on Sunday—much love to Charlie—I want him to write and remind him that he has not done it since he left home—hope you will both be able to visit us soon.

For 6 lbs. of plums take 2 qts. of vinegar and 2 ½ pounds of sugar. Put the sugar in the vinegar with a bag of spice (cloves, cinnamon, mace or allspice as you please) or whole spice thrown into the vinegar if you prefer. Scald vinegar and pour it on the plums 4 or 5 mornings—if not sufficiently soft scald the plums in the vinegar the last time. It is better not to use mellow plums.

I do peaches much in the same way except they do not require quite so much sugar and if quite hard as they should be, they will need a little more scalding.

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Dear Edward

One week from next Wednesday I expect to leave these shores. I have never seen either of the Misses Judson, but I know the one who was there last time and I wish you would come over to S. H. the week after I go and bring them. Please invite from me. I would write if I knew them at all. I shall be delighted to see you, perhaps more so than ever before in my life. Don't disappoint me—your affectionate sister,
Jane

Some wedding cake for you and Charlie. It was a very pleasant wedding.

Envelope: Edward Hitchcock Jr.

Mrs. Hitchcock Amherst

Letter 146

[OWH to MH, 2 August 1852?, EOH, Series 10-B, Box 25, Folder 15]

[Possibly written in 1852; E. Windsor Congregational Church would have observed its hundredth anniversary on June 25, 1852]

Amherst August 2

Dear Mary

I received your letter last evening saying that you wanted to get home. We had been thinking of the same thing and making arrangements accordingly and if we had not heard from you or Edward and Catherine and perhaps Jane, were calculating to go for you next week – but this plan of yours to come with your uncle is altogether the best—and your Father says you had better go to East Windsor with him and spend the night, and take the stage then in the morning—for the stage from Hartford to Amherst passes through that place and then you will be home the same day—or if for any reason this should be impracticable, and you should be obliged to go to Hartford—go to Treat's tavern and tell him whose daughter you are, and ask him to take care of you and put you on board...

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...the Amherst stage—and if you want money you must ask your uncle if he can lend you some—and if for any reason you should be obliged to stop in Springfield overnight—you had better go to the Russell's for I have had a letter from her recently, complaining of us that we do not go there when we go to Springfield.

I am sorry to hear that your health is suffering and shall feel a good deal of solicitude about you until I see you. But I shall think of you as coming on Monday to East Windsor and Tuesday morning taking the stage hence and getting home about 2 o'clock in the afternoon—unless we should hear from you to the contrary.

Yours in haste

OWH

Love to all

Bring the pattern of that bonnet for Jane

PS if you should wish to stay and attend the Anniversary at East W. we have no objection.

Miss Mary Hitchcock
West Chester (Colchester)
Connecticut

Care of Reverend Mr. Sprague

Letter 147

[CAB to OWH, 30 October 1852, EOH, Series 10-A, Box 25, Folder 11]

Dear Friend

We are at last released from our long confinement in the wild forest and finding some little leisure in these fine evenings. I will appropriate to the purpose of fulfilling my duty to my correspondents.

Since I saw you at Amherst our party has been shut up in the woods almost entirely cut off from the world without. One week ago we had not slept in any human habitation for 60 days and with a few exceptions had not seen a person save our own men.

Such a campaign offered a good opportunity to view the works of nature as they are originally before the destroying hand of man has marred their beauty—in this way one gets well paid for a short excursion but going into the forest for a...

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...a week or two on a pleasure excursion is quite another thing from packing all your personal property on your back and trudging off with it from day to day constantly at work and some Sabbaths from daylight in the morning to long after dark at night—sleeping on the ground sometimes with a dry bed and sometimes with a wet one—and to bind on taking just what you can get this is "what takes hold." The novelty soon wears off and while there is much of "poetry" in such a life—the "prose" is highly in the ascendancy. It will do well enough to try it once—but once is sufficient for a lifetime. Game is quite abundant here though we took but little—making so much ruin on the "Line" as to frighten most of it away. We never chanced to come in contact with any of the more ferocious "varmint" Bears Wolves Panthers as though one were often where they had been a short time before.

We are now in the well-known "Black River" country and in a fair way to live again—how long we may be engaged here at this time I cannot tell, perhaps for two or three months yet. This is a fine grazing country and many of the finest dairies in the state. All along the River fine little villages have sprung up. Watertown 8 miles below where I am now is said to be one of the finest places in the state. A great part

of it was burnt a few years since and having been rebuilt in regular city style presents a fine appearance.

By the way did you ever read Hedley's "Adirondack or the Life in the Woods"? We have been through some places he mentions in that work and though I have never read...

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...it myself yet from the account there give of it who who have I should think he permitted his imagination to get the better of his judgment and good sense.

In one of his last chapters he speaks of the family of one "Arnold the Squatter" among the rest of his girls. He calls them "retiring" timid as a fawn," and others similar epithets applies to them. To see them yourself is all that is necessary to make such a description perfectly ridiculous. Many such instances might be named but want of from forbids.

I hardly know whether I shall make engineering my business for life or not. Not that I do not like it as well as I expected or have not a reasonable prospect of success eventually but of late so many young men have gone into it that the business is quite something and one is one is obliged to consent to be made a tool of four or five years before he can commence any wages which render it at all profitable.

Should you ever have to ever happen up in Franklin County call at my Father's. They will be glad to see you there and moreover I hear there are plenty of their apples again and doubt not a "few" could be spared without any "robbery" being committed either of which a sight at the fruit would commend you.

[Edge of front page]

I am aware I deserve no answer having so long neglected last—but if you sometime get a little leisure in which you find no better employment please write me. Leavitt is here and wishes kind remembrance to you. How does the Seminary flounder now? Pardon my writing so extremely about ourselves we are not yet out of the woods long enough to yet busted up in other news brick for three weeks to Watertown Jefferson Co. Afterward to Saratoga. Truly your friend. C.A.B.

Letter 148

[OWH to EHJ, 1 May 1852, EOH, Series 10-B, Box 25, Folder 14]

Amherst May 1, 1852

Dear Edward

I have lined the heels and marked your stockings and have made the marks on each pair a little different so that each pair may be kept separate—I have also taken the liberty to mark one pair for Charlie, for you to make an exchange with him for a pair of his white ones—they would be better to wear with

white pants and shoes. The week you were at home, one of William's collars was put with your clothes, Bridget thinks if you can tell which it is, will you please send it when you have opportunity.

Not very delightful for a May day ramble – however Emily has had her walk this morning and we are doubting whether you will get yours this P.M.

We had a very good time in Vermont—returned Wednesday evening. Charlie will you will tell you about the nests. Also about Mr. L. W. Fowler's lecture last evening—also about Henry McIntyre (Mr. Fitch's clerk) making use of between six and seven hundred dollars for treating his friends in various ways. I reckon if the matter should be closely investigated it might be found that you have shared in some of these good things, though I hope not in the way that some of the clerks have, drinking and carousing until the late hour of night.

I did not intend to write you a letter, for Jane is to have that privilege—so good morning from your affectionate

Mother OWH

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Saturday afternoon

Dear Ed

We should have been so happy to see you with Charlie at least I wish it was a pleasant afternoon for your walk with your scholars. May day ought to be celebrated in some way. I shall sew all day long for my celebration. I wish I was a boy, and then I should have a chance to enjoy vacation a little, without this sewing all the time.

Amherst is in rather a singular state seems to me (I don't mean to insinuate that there is anything singular about Massachusetts). The good people seem to delight in quarreling about everything they can. Several citizens have withdrawn their names from the parish, because they don't like Mr. Colton—Robert Cutler, George Baker and Mr. Harrington whether any more I don't know. Then Mr. Collins has had fuss with the college this long time about his house. I guess father told you about their squabble.

Soon there will be another cause of dispute, with respect to the location of the depot. A matter of a great deal of consequence of course. Probably the man who gets it nearest to his house will consider himself the most fortunate. Until it is set on fire by one of the sparks and then he will find his mistake.

The railroad is progressing. The "Distress" says it will, in all human probability be finished as soon as next autumn. Perhaps by the time you get settled off in Michigan or California we shall have a great town here.

We have all lived in Amherst in its low estate. Father helped build up the college and waited till he saw if on firm footing, and now is going to withdraw himself and watch it as it goes on its way rejoicing. What will become of us when he resigns the presidency? Us I mean who depend upon him for our bread and

clothing. Mary will have work instead to sell, and I, I what shall I do? Perhaps I can have an opportunity to teach some infant school, and earn as much as a shilling a week. Charlie can make the fires and ring the bells in some literary institution, and live on crackers and molasses (he doesn't do much better now, does he?). And Emily she can get a place in some family and take care of little children and assist a little in the housework.

The library is waiting for Mr. Collins to return from a journey which has occupied him several weeks because he has been sick. He has not yet given the deed which restores the old yellow house to the Trustees, but they say he is ready to do so. When they get it fairly in their hands they are going to let it slide down the hill behind the meetinghouse and stop it when it gets by Doctor Kingsbury's and there have it filled up and invite some good old lady to take it and have the care of sick students, should there be any such. Then from its ruins (Oh us, from the place where it once stood) will arise the new, and splendid library buildings long looked for.

Mary regrets that you have such unworthy shoemakers in your part of the country. She hopes you will speculate a little in the slippers—they may fit someone else, you know, if they don't you. Her foot is not much better, but Dr. Smith has given her some lotion to wash it with and she hopes that will do it good. The Dr. has moved in his new house and I expect Mary will enjoy having him and Mrs. so near her greatly.

Mr. L. N. Fowler, the Phrenologist is here, and took tea with us last evening. He told Mother, Mary, Emily and I what sorts of character belong to us and told pretty true generally. Charlie has gone to his room this P.M. to hear what he has to say of him. His wife teaches too. She is a handsome lady and speaks pretty well.

Thank you for the letter stamps. I might have afforded those myself.

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I don't want to go back to the Sem. exactly and yet I think I shall find it pleasant this summer. I am afraid I shant make you a call though I want to. Love from all

Your affectionate Sister, Jane

P.S. Till me if know whether Hammond is engaged and to whom. I heard to Lydia Torrey—but I didn't hardly believe it.

We heard from Mrs. Holmes last Sat. night. She was fit and happy. Nothing new had recurred. She usually antis once in a week and perhaps we shall hear again tonight. It is very doubtful how soon she commences housekeeping—she won't get a visit from me till she does. House rent is \$300 a year and they don't want to spend so much of their salary for it—because they would rather have the money for journeying and books. Have you heard of the death of Professor Bela B. Edwards. One thing I forgot to tell you about the library business. Father is going to Stafford sometime this vacation to see Dea. Porter and try to engage him to make the contracts for the building, and thinks if he can succeed it will save some hundreds of dollars

Letter 149

[OWH to EHJ, 14 November 1852, EOH, Series 10-B, Box 25, Folder 14]

Amherst November 14 1852

Dear Edward

I am thinking you would like to hear from home by this time remembering that the time always seems much longer the first week or two after leaving home than it does afterwards. This letter has been here several days, remailed at N. Hampton, but last week was so filled up with Teachers Institute that it left no time for anything else. It was the largest meeting of the kind ever held in Mass.—375 regular members—we had as guests at our house Dr. Sears, Prof. Agassiz, and Guyot and we enjoyed their society much. Prof. Agassiz is a truly splendid man—have you seen him? He is going to Charleston to lecture this winter. Prof. Pratt too the music teacher is very attractive and Mr. Whitaker the drawing teacher still more so. They gave instruction to the classes during the day and public lectures in the evening to very large audiences. I think your father enjoyed the lectures of Agassi and Guyot exceedingly—he is still suffering on account of his health and says if he does not feel better he cannot fulfill his engagements to lecture at the East. The rest of us are about as usual. Charlie's arm does not get strong yet though he is able to use it considerably.

We heard of your visit at Lawrence—and what are you going to do with yourself at Thanksgiving? I wish you and Kate and all could be at home but suppose I may not expect it.

Father has received a letter from Dr. Lankister of London which he...

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...will send you sometime if he does not go himself to carry it. We will also send by this mail a catalogue.

How shall we direct letters to you—shall we send to Medical school, or to Mrs. Lee's—or merely to E. Hitchcock.

I acknowledge this is not much of a letter—but I am not able to write, while tutors Fiske and Howland are jabbering with the girls and eating chestnuts—it will just serve to remind you that we do not forget you and long will be the day before you are forgotten by your affectionate mother OWH

When you won't write again tell me about the Hales.

I took this letter out of the envelope because it had two directions on it already but did not mail it

Letter 150

[OWH to EHJ, 10 January 1853, EOH, Series 10-B, Box 25, Folder 14]

Amherst January 10, 1853

Dear Ed

I received letters from Lawrence this afternoon and they spoke of your having given them a short visit and and without any decided benefit to your health. They represent the weather as unhealthy—we do not call it so—but on the contrary are enjoying it wonderfully. It is perfectly delightful—has been for a week—for two or three days it has been spring like and muddy, though the days are not long enough to get the mud very deep.

Our little friend Converse died yesterday and his funeral is to be attended tomorrow morning with not a relation to follow his remains to the tomb where they are to be deposited with the expectation that his father may be here in a few days. It has been sad and melancholy to witness his raving insanity and then to be so early smitten down—but we sorrow not without hope of his having made a happy exchange.

Emily has been parching some corn to send you for medicine and I will add a few apples to roast to take your pills in if it should be necessary, if not you may have the luxury of eating them raw, which with a plaister of patients over the heart and your feet soaked in water off of submission I hope will quite restore you. But these prescriptions all feel I would next recommend a journey home.

Emily has made a list of music but it is to be left...

Page 2

...discretionary for you to get as many of them as you think proper, and any others which you may choose. I believe she is doing well in music.

I have not succeeded in getting any wrist fans here and I should rather like to have you send me some if you can – perchance I get the courage to ask your father for the money—he has just come home with one of those long store bills from Mr. Sweetser's which always makes him feel very poor. If it is likely to make much trouble for you, you need not do it, it is not of sufficient consequence. Siberian squirrel I think perhaps will be the best – I like pretty dark—I do not know exactly how the first would compare in price. Stow Martin would be too expensive probably—Mexican mountain looks too pale – and the dyed fur does not last.

It looks rather cloudy this evening and if there should be a cold storm while your father is away I fear it will make him sick. But he has been a good deal better for this quiet vacation.

If you have any clothing to be repaired please send it along and I will endeavour to attend to it.

All send love—Bridget in particular – your sincerely affectionate Mother

Remember me to the Hales and the Tappan's and the Burgess' —

Top of page 1 sideways

I had got a nice pair of apples wrapped and ready to send and Emily another pan of parched corn and was going to get some walnuts too— Pa comes in and says he cannot take any of them, it will make his hay so heavy and you will have to take the will for the deed—but lest your mouth should water I have begged him to take just three or four apples and a handful of corn.

[Luke Sweetser was a retailer in Amherst.]

Letter 151

[OWH to EHJ, 23 January 1853, EOH, Series 10-B, Box 25, Folder 14]

Sabbath eve January 23^d 1853

Dear Ed

I intended to have written to you this evening but it is now past ten—this is the first moment I have had and I would not now only to apologize for not doing so and a request of Charlie to inquire of you what you will have him do with the watch. There was something about amalgam too but that he said was of not much importance.

We are well as usual – Miss Spafford (A S. Hadley teacher) and Mary Jane Smith are spending a few days with us.

There is nothing of particular interest I believe going on here if there is your father will inform you of it. I suppose you have heard of Harrison's good fortune.

John Emerson says tell Edward "he has a classmate here this winter, that's all."

Remember me kindly to the Hale's. All send love to you

Your affectionate mother

Address: Edward Hitchcock Jr. Boston

Return address: Mrs. Hitchcock

Letter 152

[OWH to EHJ, 13 February 1853, EOH, Series 10-B, Box 25, Folder 14]

Sabbath evening February 13/53

Dear Edward

Edward Burgess is spending the Sabbath was with us and expects to leave in the morning, so I improve just these few moments in writing—to say that we are all well and anticipating with no small degree of pleasure the idea of your return home in a few days. A considerable part of the woodpile has been already cut by a poor student who had not money enough either to stay here or get away—but what remains I think will be reserved for you. Not that we have any of us any great reason to fear that you will not pass muster but we think you will want a little healthful exercise and in that way we will succeed in keeping you at home a little while.

If Mr. B should not leave till the nine o'clock stage it is possible your father may get these minerals put up to send, it will be such a good opportunity and they have enjoyed his visit right well.

I think Jane had better come home with you (unless she comes before) a letter from her yesterday says she is troubled with sore eyes again. I do not think it is in consequence of studying too hard. I shall write her this week about it and leave her to make the arrangements with you—whether for her to meet you, or you go to Lawrence and come that way. I do hope our rail road will be open by that time. There were several men at work on it last week...

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...and we were told that the road would be ready in a few days but we have lost all confidence in promises of that sort and shall not believe until we actually see the cars in motion. This fall of snow I apprehend may serve as an excuse of this time. It has been a very stormy day but cleared off beautifully this evening.

The usual meeting has been held here this evening – the rooms have not as yet been crowded this season—though there seems a considerable degree of solemnity in college, especially in the Sophomore class. Strong and two or three others and I believe are indulging hope recently. The revival in North Amherst is powerful beyond anything they have ever experienced before.

I wish you would inquire for what sum you can get a picture frame—decent and plain either gilt or rose wood or something 26 inches by 20 20 with the glass and without a glass—I prefer to get glass here if I ca on account of the danger of breaking by transportation. I have been making a crayon head which I think deserves a frame.

I may be able to get it done at N. Hampton but have not inquired—if you are not too busy it well do no harm to make the inquiry.

Will you not say to Mrs. Hale that I have authorized you to invite them to visit us when the warm weather comes. I feel a little awkward to do it now, having no occasion to write on any other subject and not knowing what may transpire before that time. I am sure I should be delighted to have any of them visit here, but do not suppose I could make it pleasant for them very long. I do feel obliged them for all their kindness to you and to us all and should be required to have it in my power to do anything to contribute to their happiness.

Excuse this hastily written letter. Probably her father is writing also and Emily has a request to make to which I shall leave her to do herself and subscribe myself

Your affectionate mother OWH

Dear Edward

I guess you will think I am making great progress in music by the way I send for it. Frances wants me to have one or two of those songs "Gems from the German." If you know of anyone coming here before you come home you may send it but if not you can bring it yourself.

From your sister Emily

Have you seen the February number of "Putnam's Monthly"? If not please get it and read the article "Have we a Bourbon among us" you cannot fail to be interested in it.

Address: Edward Hitchcock Jr., Boston
By Mr. E. B.

Return address: Mother

[Note: An article entitled "Have we a Bourbon among us" by a Rev. Hansen appeared in Putnam's Monthly in February, 1853, suggesting that the French Dauphin believed to have died over 50 years earlier in France was actually alive and living among the St. Regis Indians of the Northwest.]

Letter 153

[EH to OWH, 25 April 1854, EOH, Series 2-B, Box 5, Folder 32]

Amherst April 25 1854

My dear Wife,

I reached home today as I expected and found all well with nothing unusual to be reported.

I called upon Mr. Tappan yesterday and spent a couple of hours and spent the evening at Mr. Hale's. Of course they are both laying their plans to have you visit them. Mrs. Tappan will probably write you: but if he does not I hope you will go there and spend at least one night for she says you seem to her like a sister and I think she is sincere if anybody is in what she says.

Page 2

I doubt whether you will persuade Mrs. Hale (the mother) to come to Lawrence. But you will probably

have to visit her at her home. I have engaged to supply Dr. Waterburg's pulpit if nothing prevents Sabbath after next. Whether you will want to stay as long as that I leave to you to decide. We shall try to get along without you as long as we can. If sickness occurs you would probably wish to return. My lameness is somewhat better but still quite troublesome.

I left your Ninevah gem at the store of Jones Ball and Company 226 Washington St., corner of Washington and Summer St. It will be finished about the last of this week. I paid for the job.

The painting of bunnies has not been found. The girls think it is not here.

I either left my umbrella at Mr. Storr's or at the depot. Will you look after it.

As Jane will probably send a note I will add nothing but to subscribe myself as ever

Your affectionate husband

Edward Hitchcock

Letter 154

[EH to OWH, 25 July 1854, EOH, Series 2-B, Box 5, Folder 32]

Hanover July 25th 1854

My dear wife,

I found on reaching here yesterday that my address was deferred till this afternoon which I regret as the weather is very oppressive. Commencement is tomorrow. But I feel as if I could not stay. I am suffering very much from the state of my bowels and feel as if I could not stay longer than is necessary. I have another application to go to Burlington and could spend the remainder of the week in geologizing. But it is so hot I dare not attempt to do either in my present state of health. So that my present plan is to go home tomorrow. I hope to get to Northampton in season to take the afternoon stage to Amherst. But should I not come in that and you could send some one over so as to be at Northampton a little before six o'clock I should hope to be there.

Affectionately yours

Edward Hitchcock

Letter 155

[EH and OWH to EHJ, 13 November 1854, EOH, Series 10-B, Box 25, Folder 14]

[Edward Hitchcock born to Edward, Jr. and Mary Judson Hitchcock on Sept 1 1854, Stratford, Conn.; Kate (Catherine) married Henry M. Storrs in 1852]

Amherst Tuesday Nov. 13th

Dear son

Allen has appeared this morning and gone to work so I must request you not to engage a mason to come over if you have found one. If you have already done it I will pay all damages if there are any.

I thank you for Ralph Richardson's romance about the mines. I should be glad to see the section you speak out if you can retain it. I do not get the facts which I want from his report. The two facts I want are the distance of the mouth of the adit from the Easthampton line and the tip of the strata in it.

Page 2

I am gradually getting better and have finished my valedictory address as well as a Charge to be delivered at the Installation. I am sorry to learn that I shall not have you nor yours for auditors.

In haste truly yours

E Hitchcock

P.S. The Know Nothings swept the board here yesterday and elected Dr. Smith as representative.

[Different hand]

In regard to the chairs there are reasons which I will explain when I see you that they have decided me to let the Storrs have them—but I can find half a dozen or more good, strong chairs which only need a coat of paint to make them very decent—which I will give you—I think I can let you have the table also.

Mary is this moment in tears she feels so disappointed not to go to E. Hampton today—we here all wish her to go very much but as yet it has her quite impossible.

In haste—love to Mary and a kiss to little Edward

Your mother OWH

I hope you will come to the Inauguration—I some expect Kate and Storrs.

Mary is expecting to go and help you set up—and is anticipating it greatly

Letter 156

[EH to OWH, 3 February 1855, EOH, Series 2-B, Box 5, Folder 32]

Red House Putnam County Va
February 3^d 1855 Saturday

My beloved wife,

"What! Still at the Red House"! you will doubtless exclaim. "Yes, still here," my desponding heart replies. And why? Because our way hitherto has seemed so hedged up that I judged it unwise to try to escape. Half of our number have been up to Charleston for some days and I did expect that when they returned last night all would be ready to start off this morning on foot if no other way. But no: matters are not yet completed: one of our number is still at Charleston and the prospect is that we must spend another Sabbath here. Perhaps you do not exactly understand our situation—let me explain it.

We are 30 miles up the Kanawha River and there is no public conveyance to the Ohio nor is it possible without paying an exorbitant price to hire a carriage and they will charge as much for two as for six almost—the roads moreover are exceedingly rough or as they say here, "powerful rough," so that aside from baggage the best mode of travelling is on foot. When we get to the Ohio at Point Pleasant 60 miles are before us to Cincinnati and 110 miles to Columbus leading to Amherst and though there is a stage upon this route it is said to be...

Page 2

... a terribly bad road and from the Ohio to Chilicothe you are on the road no less than 21 hours continuously starting at one o'clock A.M. It has seemed to me that I never can endure such a jaunt. And yet there is no other way to get out of this terrible scrape. I ought to add that I am fearful that my money will come short and I know that my clothes are wearing ragged and I am obliged to mend as well as I can daily.

In such circumstances you can scarcely conceive how strong my desire is to find a way out of this dilemma. For some wise reasons which I can yet only dimly discern I have been permitted to fall into the trap and now I must wait patiently if I can to see the cloud rise before I move. If I had health doubtless things would look brighter: but I am feeble in body and in mind and when I suffer myself to think of my condition and especially to think of you and the children in that quiet home the tears start into the eyes of an old man of more than sixty who ought perhaps never to have done with what some would call weakness for personal suffering though we can never be too old to weep for sin.

The unpleasantness of our condition is increased by the fact that we cannot hear from home. Messrs. Bond and Tyler have letters about a week on but none reach Charles and I, or Mr. Pratt. I feel sure you have written but the letters have not reached this remote quarter. Nor do we get any newspapers from the Atlantic coast. Nor any news from thence more recent than a week old.

I ought not to forget the many mercies God mingles in our cup of bitterness. We have enough to eat though no potatoes or apples and we sleep warm though the windows are much broken. And we have the bible though in a universalist family. We have also the privilege of prayer and I feel as if called on loudly to prepare for whatever it is before me. It seems quite as doubtful to me whether I shall be able to go through the hardships before me and reach home as it did at anything when we were in Europe

and my most earnest prayer is that I may be ready to depart when God calls. Oh that I might be able to say in that hour, "Come Lord Jesus, come quickly." This is not the manner in which I should desire to close life: but God knows what is best. I feel that for some cause he left me to engage in this enterprise although I did cry unto him for guidance. May he pardon the error I have committed and the probably unworthy and selfish motives by which I was actuated.

You well know how earnestly I looked forward to some degree of rest on leaving the Presidency of the College. But thus far instead of rest I have been as it were on the top of the billows or deep between them. How freely should I feel the force of the sentiment in one of my sermons that "to him who does his duty there is no satisfying rest this side of heaven." Perhaps also I ought to feel that am realizing the truth of that other scriptural sentiment there is no peace saith my God to the wicked.

Charles is well but has become quite uneasy in our present circumstances and would venture through fire and water to escape. He would gladly start alone for home but I trust he will not leave me. If I could bear what he can I would go alone and risque the consequences. Mr. Pratt has a severe attack of the rheumatism: but with Dr. Hereford here I trust he will...

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...get better soon.

Sabbath evening. We have had a quiet day in our room but no public religious services in the family. I read a sermon in the forenoon to our party and Dr. Hereford. Last night it poured harder I think than before and the river is loaded with ice. We had concluded to start tomorrow morning and engaged a one horse wagon – part of us to walk and part to ride. But this evening a storm threatens and moreover I think some of the party not yet ready to go why I know not. When it was proposed to me to come here the fact that I was to have several in company was a principal inducement for liable as I am to be thrown down at once I want some one or more with me who could help me in case of difficulty. But not unlikely I may come become compelled to venture alone after all. Would that I could leave all in the hands of God. I know that you pray for me daily and have a confidence that your prayers may avail though I have little or no competence in my own. Oh my dear wife I fear I am too solicitous to see you and the children again in the world! Would that I could resign this wish entirely into the hands of God—as well as every other interest.

Richmond Ohio Wednesday Feb 6th

We have been over two days dragging over a terrible road and I have just rode 16 miles before breakfast in the night to search a railroad (in 15 miles more) to take me not towards Amherst but towards Cincinnati. I have no hope of reaching home this week. If we can get to Cleveland we shall do well. I am chilled so that I cannot write—God bless you and ours.

E Hitchcock

Letter 157

[OWH to EHJ, 22 February 1855, EOH, Series 10-B, Box 25, Folder 14]

Amherst February 22 1855

Dear Edward

Your letter was received this evening—but notwithstanding the day of fasting and prayer your father is absent so I will give you a short answer that you may know that we do not quite forget you. We have been trying very hard to go over to see you and have talked about it every day for the last week. After the Association was over last Wed. we intended the next thing should be to make you a little visit, perhaps go over in the afternoon and spend the night (if you could lodge us) but it rained every day during the remainder of last week and the first of this week we are occupied with lectures and then Mr. Storrs and the Lawrence church sent such a pressing request to father to go down there to hold a consultation about the matter of his going to Cincinnati that he could not quite refuse though he was quite reluctant to go away so soon again, accordingly he set off this morning in order to be there tomorrow at ten o'clock to meet several other gentlemen—they agree to abide by the decision of this council and thus throw off the responsibility of deciding themselves. We intend to go over as soon as we can and then you shall hear all about the Virginia ice excursion as well as the Cincinnati business—but I suppose your father will be obliged to lecture on Mon. & Tues. again. We have heard that you were not well and are glad that you are better.

There is a good deal of religious interest here too—this has been a very interesting day as you know it always is—for Stearns appointed an inquiry meeting this evening—we have...

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...heard the results. We have a Western preacher here, as son of Cal Graves—a man of a very ardent temperament whose labors seem to be useful. I think the students are much pleased with him—you know they like every thing of a stirring nature. Dr. Stearn's preaching is well calculated to make an impression and he is giving great satisfaction both as a preacher and teacher and as a man too.

Prof. Jewett has received an unanimous call to settle over a church in Nashua—the expectation is that he will accept.

I am glad that you will give us a part of your vacation—that is as it should be—hope Mary and baby will come too—we all want so much to see the little fellow again—tell Mary she will excuse it if we feel particularly anxious to see baby, for he has probably changed more since we saw him than she has.

All send love and good wishes to the whole family—excuse the haste and the poor pen with which I write and believe me your most affectionate

Mother OWH

I cannot tell whether we will spend the night when we go to see you or go before dinner and returned

the same day. We thought of spending the night last week because father wanted to see Mr. Williston— but he has seen him.

Letter 158

[EH to EHJ, 8 May 1855, EOH, Series 2-B, Box 4, Folder 43]

Amherst Tuesday morning May 8th 1855

My dear Son

Ma had a bad night and seems much exhausted this morning. She had a poor day yesterday. No new symptom develops itself: but she seems to me to be slowly going down you may regard this result of my temperament. I hope it is but it may turn out otherwise. I do not however think it necessary for you to come over today as it is so difficult and the case may not be decided for several days. I hope however that you will come and see your mother as soon as your engagements...

Page 2

...will allow.

Most truly yours

E Hitchcock

PS I wish you would ask Shoals to make a separate estimate upon the Nineveh Gallery as it is quite uncertain whether it be built.

Letter 159

[EH to EHJ, 17 May 1855, EOH, Series 2-B, Box 4, Folder 43]

Amherst May 17th

Dear Son,

By your letter to your mother I learn the probability that you may come to Amherst on Saturday. Ma and the rest of us wish you to come if you can and write to trouble you with a little business. You may recollect that I asked you to request Shoals to make a separate estimate upon the Lecture Room in the Nineveh Gallery. But he has just sent one in which the two buildings are put together. Will you see him at once and request him to send by you if he can the estimate on the buildings separately. Also...

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...I wish he would if he can estimate how much it will reduce the cost of the lecture room to make it two feet less in diameter that is 32 feet instead of 34 feet also what it will cost to paint the outside instead of covering it with Mastick—Something must be done to decrease the expense or I fear we shall not be able to build as Mr. Shoals estimate overruns our means considerably. I had rather have it smaller than not to have it built at all.

I wish you would bring over the drawings of the Lecture Room by Mr. Sykes. If Shoals will send these and the estimates as above requested by you we may be able to give him an answer on Monday when he comes over. If you should not come please send the things by Shoals on Monday or by Mrs. Williston who I intended will come over then.

In some respects Ma seems to be slightly improved. But there is still a deep-seated sense of suffering. Nor to my mind is it yet at all certain how the case will turn. She is still a great sufferer especially at night—has watched and does not see company—though she will be glad to see you and yours come over on Saturday.

If you can call the Hopkins and Bridgman's and get my Ichnology of Annandale if it is bound.

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(paying for it if you please \$2.50) I shall be glad though the errand is not of much consequence.

Truly yours

E. Hitchcock

Letter 160

[EH to EHJ, 21 May 1855, EOH, Series 2-B, Box 4, Folder 43]

Amherst Friday evening

May 21st 1855

Dear Son

Your mother has had a comfortable day comparatively and seems upon the whole to be slowly gaining. No new symptoms have appeared and I hope gains strength that she may ultimately recover. But I did

not be sanguine in this hope knowing how difficult it is to judge in so complicated a case.

If any changes occur during the night I will add a word in the morning.

Truly yours

E. Hitchcock

Saturday morning. No essential changes

Letter 161

[OWH to EHJ, 11 December 1855, EOH, Series 10-B, Box 25, Folder 14]

Amherst December 11 1855

Dear Ed

I do acknowledge my remissness in not answering your letter earlier but it was a little time before Emily had made up her mind whether she really wanted to go to E. and since that I have been too busy to do anything as it should have been done. We all are pleased with the idea of her going (even she herself is now). I shall feel much easier about leaving her there than here. I hope she may do well and not cause you and Mary too much trouble. I want she should get some ambition excited in regard to her studies. Our wish is that she may...

Page 2

...attend to those branches which may prepare her to enter the seminary at S. Hadley whether she goes or not. Will you please look to that?

As the term is commenced she will be getting off as soon as possible—if her outfit is not as great as it might be, ask Mary to excuse it under existing circumstances. I think Charles will be able to go over with her some day this week— his house is getting along quite well. Mary or Jane may perhaps go too.

I am glad you are have so comfortable and economical an overcoat this winter.

We expect to start in the morning. But not without many apprehensions of suffering from cold etc. I do think after all a quiet home is the the best place for enjoyment that this world affords and I believe the best to prepare for a future home of rest too.

In much haste and much love

Your affectionate mother

OWH

Come for your potatoes and apples when you are ready only take a mild day, that they may not freeze on the way.

Letter 162

[EH to OWH, 2 January 1856, EOH, Series 2-B, Box 4, Folder 43]

Chicago January 2 11:00 PM 1856

My dear wife,

I reached here before 10 o'clock this evening in safety having traveled 210 miles since noon. Most of the road all the way from Cincinnati is very rough and the cars rock about almost as much as our steamer did in crossing the ocean.

To day I crossed prairies for the first time some of them as broad as the eye could take in. The road from Lafayette runs nearly 70 miles in a straight line across the prairies and all the way from Cincinnati I have not seen a hill over 30 feet high.

I was attacked yesterday afternoon by the rheumatic affliction in my right breast rather severely but I managed to get up my drawings and go through with my lecture comfortably. The audience was large and attentive. I found Dr. McLean's family a delightful one to stay in. They nursed me up so well (among other things giving me a glass of good Madeira) that I slept well and have endured my ride today well. My heart is better.

I found Mr. Ward waiting for me at the...

Page 2

...Fremont Hotel (an immense establishment). He appears to be a very pleasant gentleman and regretted as they did at Indianapolis that you are not with me.

I saw on the prairies to day twelve deer hanging undressed by the side of one cabin. The country is but little settled.

I have not yet seen Chicago nor Lake Michigan: but I thought I would drop you a line as soon as possible to relieve your mind. Do let me hear from you soon. And send me anything that comes from home or elsewhere.

I expected to lecture here tomorrow evening and the next day go to Milwaukee and remain till the next Tuesday so that it must be nearly a week before I hear from you unless something special should lead you to send to me at Milwaukee to the care of Mr. Brigham.

With affectionate remembrance to all I remain devotedly yours

Edward Hitchcock

Letter 163

[OWH to Eunice Huntington, 11 February 1856, EOH, Series 10-B, Box 25, Folder 17]

Amherst February 11, 1856

My dear cousin Eunice

You see by my date that I am home again. I expected when I left you that I should see you again on my return and I left Cincinnati with that expectation. We left in the morning of January 27 (Monday). Your uncle had engaged to stop at Columbus and give a lecture in that evening, which he did and there then was another association and of the Christian Association in which he feels a particular interest who were very urgent to hear him the next evening and he consented to remain. We then started on Wednesday morning and I had no other thoughts but to stop and spend the night with you—but hearing so much about snowdrifts at...

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...the East, my anxious husband feared we might be delayed and not reach home during the week, if we delayed at all, so when the cars arrived at C. we were told there would be just time enough to get our baggage exchanged and reach Buffalo at 10 or half past in the evening. I felt a little unwilling to give up that pleasant evening with my friends and kindred, but consented as I suppose a good wife should—and on we went. Soon however we began to experience delays from snowdrifts and other causes so that instead of 10 in the evening it was 11 the next morning before we were in Buffalo. We spent a considerable part of the night stuck fast in the snow about Dunkirk. Fortunately I had provision in my

satchel or we might have suffered from hunger. I will not undertake to tell you how many times I thought of you at home with your families that evening and night. We were glad to reach Buffalo and get some breakfast and rest a little—then at 5 PM we started again spent another night in the cars and reached Albany to breakfast and then came on and reached home just as the family were on Friday at ten not having seen the inside of a bed from Columbus a distance of 730 miles. The cars from Amherst to Palmer returned the next morning and this afternoon, Monday, February 11, is the first time they have been here since. Some of the drifts about here are tremendous. In our front yard they are a wall on either side. The cold has not been so intense here as in many places—only 11° below here while at Cincinnati it was 18 and Milwaukee 30.

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I enjoyed my visit at Cincinnati with the exception of the severe cold which I was not prepared to meet.

Kate and her husband are pleasantly situated and seem to be filling a sphere of usefulness.

Your Uncle's exposures have greatly increased his cough which is at present very severe—otherwise we are all pretty well—my own health improved notwithstanding some hardships.

I have heard nothing from Deerfield since my return. Captain Billings' death you have doubtless heard of and the more particulars I dare say than I have—our children are not able to attend the funeral.

Please remember me very affectionately to your husband and Mrs. Child's family and excuse this scrawl of a letter. From your affectionate aunt

OWH

Envelope: Mrs. O. E. Huntington
Cleveland, Ohio

[In the upper corner in pencil] "My husband wrote that... see ??? 18th

[Page 1 Across the edge of the paper]

I should love exceedingly to hear from you by letter if you would take the trouble when you feel in a mood for it.

Letter 164

[EH to OWH, 5 August 1856, EOH, Series 2-B, Box 4, Folder 43]

Amherst August 5th 1856

My dear Wife,

We were very glad to receive your letter this afternoon for we had not heard a word from you since you left and did not know in what direction beyond Palmer you had gone. Doctor Haskell's letter came today after you left and I hoped you had gone to Rockport as I find you have. I think it will be as good a place anyone could find to try the effect of seaside air and water upon your system. I do not think surf bathing essential: though I think that to day if you have as we have a northeast storm that you have found some surf moving on the waves. The change here is...

Page 2

...wonderful. It has rained about as hard today as I ever knew it and it still pours down as hard as ever. Somebody I fancy has been praying with strong faith and the windows of heaven are thrown wide open in answer.

And now I want to suggest to you that if you find your health improving where whether you had not better stay at Rockport till after Commencement. I feel you will not get much recovered before that time and it is very important that you try to get I strengthened before the access of cold weather. I wish I could join you and perhaps I may after Commencement for a short time as I want very much to look at some of the geological features of Cape Ann. The girls think they could get along without you especially if Kate is here. I hope she may join you this week and so you will see her earlier than if at home. True you want to see Charles graduate but you know the process and if health requires it you might dispense with the sight.

I wish you could speak with Dr. Haskell on this subject and consult him about your case.

It is not because I want you away that I make these suggestions: for it is dreadfully lonely here without you—so much so that I feel a strong desire to get away. But it seems out of the question before commencement if my strength will hold out. And I feel a strong desire to have you do all in your power to get invigorated.

Page 3

Mrs. Hartley whom I have just seen wishes you to say to Mrs. Rowe that she means to start for Rockport on Thursday next.

There is no news here except the change in the weather. Emily was quite unwell yesterday from eating apples but is well today.

Edward's letter I send herewith. If the girls wish to add anything I leave a brief space and remain as ever

Affectionately yours
Edward Hitchcock

PS I have said nothing about the time of Jane's returning. I suppose she will wish to be here at Commencement. Perhaps she can come with Mr. Storrs should you stay.

Envelope:

Mrs. Orra W Hitchcock
Mr. and Mrs. Rowes
Rockport
Cape Ann
Mass.

Postmark: Amherst August 6

Letter 165

[OWH to EHJ, 1857, EOH, Series 10-B, Box 25, Folder 14]

Mary says she promised to write you about Kate and as she is busy she has left it with me and I thought it might be more gratifying to read her own letter. She has got along wonderfully. I hope she will keep well but have some fears about it.

We heard from Emily today—she is well now she says.

Mary will not send a sample from the dyeing of her cape, but just ask him to make it the same color as before.

If you have not destroyed your last Sat. Springfield Rep. I wish you...

Page 2

...would send it for me. Ours did not come. I send them to Nebraska.

I have had a bad cold and for a few days was nearly sick. But I am pretty well today and have been out twice.

I hope you are all better and will keep so for the present—but this furious wind is almost too much for comfort.

Much love to you all

Your aff. mother

Amherst Feb. 26

P.S. We have just learned that Mrs. Abby Bliss has a daughter.

Letter 166

[EH to OWH, 13 March 1857, EOH, Series 2-B, Box 4, Folder 43]

Halifax Mar 13th 1857

Dear Wife,

I had a hard time in facing the cold wind on Monday and coughing almost incessantly. But Mr. Burrows took good care of me at night so I came on yesterday to this place where though there is no Tavern we found accommodation in an excellent family. Last night I had a terrible fit on going to bed but slept tolerably well and feel better this morning. I do not cough so much but raise more matter.

Page 2

Yesterday the thermometer was at 28° today it is not probably so cold though snowier in patches. Around us on the mountains west there is a great deal of it and in fact it is pretty good March weather. I am sick enough to be at home confined but still keep moving on because I am away. I hope Providence may carry me through it and that I shall return better. But I cannot tell.

We have found not a little to interest us in geology but I will not go into details.

Mr. Hager met us at Vernon: but we are deficient in some small instruments of importance. I forgot to take a hammer which is such an omission as ought to remove me from the office of State Geologist.

Affectionately yours

Edward Hitchcock

Letter 167

[OWH to EHJ, 27 August 1857, EOH, Series 10-B, Box 25, Folder 14]

Amherst August 27/57

Dear Edward

I write just to let you know that I am safely home.

I left your father and Charlie on Monday morning at Saint Albans. Mary thought you would like to write to C. but as they were going on a sort of backwards excursion I cannot say when a letter would reach them—they decided however if there should be a special occasion for writing, that we might venture to

send to Willoughby Lake, whence they intend to be in the course of a few days.

Is Mrs. Mary well yet? [Probably referring to Edward's wife] And can she keep so a few days longer while I am expecting family friends? If she does this and then I could be any comfort or assistance to her, I should love to go be with her, inasmuch as Mary tells me she will not expect...

Page 2

...her own mother. [Edward and Mary's second child, Caroline, was born on September 8, 1857]

I am hoping and daily expecting a little visit from my far off brother and as it will probably be short, I do not feel as if I could lose one hour of it. I am thinking we may possibly ride over and see you for an hour, even if your wife should not be able to see him at all.

We do not know when to expect the Storrs but we suppose a visit must be completed before the meeting of the A.B.C. on the eighth. [Daughter Catherine and husband Henry Storrs]

Emily has not returned yet so we are few in number at present. She will come in a day or two I presume.

We had a very fine time at Montréal—everything pleasant and agreeable—only that when I left St. Albans on Monday morning your father was not well—having had another of those unpleasant attacks of dizziness in the head.

Charles enjoyed his trip very, very much.

In much haste, your affectionate mother OWH

Evening. We have had a letter from Mr. Storrs which informs us that Kate will not be with us before Thursday of next week – a pretty short visit we think.

OWH

Letter 168

[EH to OWH, 28 April 1858, EOH, Series 2-B, Box 4, Folder 43]

Baltimore April 28th 1858

My dear Wife,

Through the kindness of Providence we reached this place in safety last evening and find ourselves comfortable this morning in Mr. Phelps rather splendid residence in Eutaw Place place on the borders of the city. But I had a hard time of it the day I left Amherst. When I came to New Haven Charles was anxious to stop and come on by the night boat and I reluctantly consented feeling unwell. However I consented but before I had got halfway to N. Y. felt unwell—sick and dizzy. I stood it however to reach the city but hardly knew how I should have got along had not Providence...

Page 2

...sent me a seatmate a Mr. Neill from Philadelphia who conducted me to an excellent hotel and attended to my wants so that yesterday morning I was able to come on. He proved himself a real Christian gentleman. I suspect that most of my trouble arose from eating too much of that cake and cheese you put up without bread and meat. I still suffer from indigestion and pain but hope to get along with care.

As there is no Irving hotel where I told Charles I should stop he could not find me and we did not meet till we had crossed the Hudson to Jersey City. How difficult to make any safe calculations in this world when we go at all out of the beaten track! I have certainly found myself more indebted to Special Providence in this world than to human wisdom or prudence.

I doubt whether the scientific meeting will be very full. Neither the president elect nor Dr. Bennet will be here. The Mayor of the city gives a reception this evening and I find that Mrs. Phelps gives one on Friday evening. This will give you some idea of the accommodations and style of living. Dr. Darlington is here—the famous botanist—70 years old—a very pleasant man. Professor Silliman Senior will also be here. He has given great offence to the people of the South and this probably is the reason.

Mrs. Phelps inquired very particularly for you and regretted that you did not come. Her severe troubles have given a terrible...

Page 3

...shock to his system yet I find she is getting out a small book.

I close hastily and remain affectionately

yours

Edward Hitchcock

Letter 169

[EH to OWH, 21 May 1858, EOH, Series 2-B, Box 4, Folder 43]

Bennington Friday evening

May 21st 1858

My dear Wife,

The kindness of Providence has brought us thus far in safety but not without many discomforts quite trying to the flesh. We staid at Conway and had a pleasant visit and came along with tolerable comfort till we nearly reached the top of Hoosac Mountain when it began to rain and we had to travel seven

miles to North Adams through mud knee deep and over a frightful road. This morning we started in hope because the clouds broke away and we made a pleasant call upon some of the officers at Williamstown. But this afternoon we not only lost our way and had a bad road...

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...but rode again in the rain and this evening it continues to pour down and the streets are flooded. It is also cold so that I have found it difficult to keep comfortable. Tobey likewise seems either sick or so old that he moves only with a snail's pace and he is really inept to perform such a journey with a carriage which I find to be very heavy. Again I have failed thus far to accomplish any geological objects I had in view nor can I do it without going on foot, over these tremendous mountains. In my hurry in getting away I did not make such preparations as were needed. At Conway I bought a whip: at Adams an umbrella; at Pownal a pair of shoes for the horse and here a pair of handles for my carpet bag. My health is perhaps as good as in such circumstances I could expect. But I suffer constantly from hemorrhoids etc. and am fully satisfied that both Tobey and I are too old and infirm for such undertakings and how long we shall try to go forward I cannot say. I think if you write me the early part of next week you had better direct to Rutland—farther than that I will not say.

Who should come into the room just now but Mr. and Mrs. Sears from Ohio going to Vermont to spend the summer and return in the autumn. They of course were particular in inquiries after you Mary etc.

I wish you would send to Dickinson the wagoner on the Northampton road and request him to go to Shelburne Falls and get a specimen for me which may weigh 3000 but which can be loaded easily and will lie well in his wagon. Let him call on...

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...Rice at the Academy who will direct him to a Mr. Field who got out the stone and who will go with him and help load it. Tell him that he will find a good road from Conway to Shelburne Falls and by that route the whole distance to Amherst cannot be but about 22 miles. I am anxious to have him go as soon as he can lest some one should mar the specimen. It is a great beauty: finer I think than any outdoor specimen I have got.

I try to forget home as much as possible save in my prayers lest I should be so homesick as to turn the horse in that direction. I try and recollect the duty urges me strongly to hold on as long as there is any prospect of a good effect upon my heart or I can accomplish any of the objects of the survey. With love to all I remain affectionately yours

Edward Hitchcock

[Along the side of the page]

It rained so hard I did not call upon Mr. and Mrs. Arnold in Adams

Letter 170

[OWH to EHJ, 20 July 1858, EOH, Series 10-B, Box 25, Folder 14]

Amherst July 20/58

Dear Edward

Yours of the 16th was duly received—I suppose if we dwell a thousand miles apart, we should keep up a mere boorish correspondence. But every day brings its multiplicity of cares and labors and when we have nothing to write, we don't write it.

Mary is taking her summer vacation and going down to Yarmouth to visit Mr. and Mrs. Packard and New Bedford to visit Mrs. Alex Holmes. We shall expect her next week.

Mr. Storrs continues to impress. Last week he came by boat from Richmond Virginia to N York and I suppose will come here on horseback reaching us perhaps by Tuesday or Sat.

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Your vacation and Emily's commence next week— and I think as soon as convenient you had better visit us with your family as you suggest— the sooner the better, before commencement is upon us for I cannot tell what scattering will take place then—or if we are here, you know how we are always tired out.

Father I think will, if able, go to Vermont for a time. Do you know that Hager and Charlie have had a regular blow up? And separated, the one to the right hand, the other to the left! What may be the result we cannot a present foresee. Father will write soon and try his skill in a healing plaster—if that does not succeed I fear things will come out badly.

You say it is your busiest season of the year—I was about to say it is mine too— but I take that back—for all seasons are busiest with me. This afternoon we are expecting Caroline and her husband Mr. Dennison.

I do not think any of us will attend your anniversary unless it be Charlie for we shall of course some of us calculate to go to South Hadley. I was sorry you could not have met us there the other day—we had a nice time.

I do not think it would be quite right in you not to be here at commencement—it would not only be a slight to your Alma Mater but your Alma Pater also.

Much love to Mary and Connie and the little ones—please tell the little daughter I am glad to hear that she has some spark—she will find it quite essential in some cases.

I will presume to send the love of all the family though none of them are present at the moment to say so.

Your ever affectionate mother

OWH

P.S. I do not know as any one has replied to you concerning the Sew. Machine, but I had come to the conclusion that we must let that rest for the present. I had hoped to have seen Mary and Connie here before this. We shall anticipate seeing you all soon.

Letter 171

[OWH to EHJ, 12 March 1859, EOH, Series 10-B, Box 25, Folder 14]

Amherst March 12 /59

Dear Ed

I had it fully impressed upon my mind that Mary was expecting to spend the greater part if not the whole of your vacation in Bridgeport: but by a letter to Mary I find I am mistaken and since I am; I write this morning to suggest a little alteration in your program—and that is that you do not leave your wife and youngest child at home, but bring them along with you. Wednesday, if that is the most convenient for you and remain a few days as long as it seems agreeable for you and yours. We are all pretty well now, though subject to infirmities—your father is quite...

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...comfortable though by no means strong—his lungs still trouble him and will probably for a long time, if not always.

There is still a considerable sickness among us – lung fever has been quite prevalent. I know of no scarlet fever cases near us now. Dr. Smith is so busy yet, that he has not called upon us for two weeks.

Emily is still at home and while here seems well, but sick, as soon as she goes back to the seminary. I do not think it worthwhile for her to try to hold on there any longer, but she is planning to return about next week. As to the matter of the school, all we know about it is from the Republican.

One thing more—when I was at your house last fall I saw a small book there on the subject of arranging autumn leaves etc. I recollect it did not belong to you, but if it did belong to some of your neighbors who would be willing to lend it again I should like very much to have you bring it here for me to look at a few hours.

As usual for your vacation the traveling is becoming horribly bad. I can only say, that if you will have it come in March, you must expect it.

All send love to all.

Your affectionate mother OWH

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I wish you would bring over...a little book on preserving animal...if we can both get up...to stuff a rat per Deerfield. C. H. H.

Letter 172

[OWH and EH to EHJ, 10 November 1860, EOH, Series 2-B, Box 4, Folder 43]

Amherst Nov. 10th 1860

My dear son

We have been greatly rejoiced to receive from you two letters one to myself dated at Paris Oct. 11th and one to Ma dated Oct. Your wife also has sent a larger part of your Journal so that we have learned much as to your course and the incidents you have met. And we are thankful that hitherto you have been so much favored and have seen so much. Of course you must expect discomforts: this is the price you pay for the privileges of foreign travel. Probably the mode of living in England will suit you better than in France though I confess that I liked the latter best. But we were more favored than you as to a boarding house. Your route through Switzerland and Germany was essentially the same as ours though we crossed the Rhine and stopped at Frankfurt several days.

We wrote you a joint letter some time ago though by mistake all the parties did not sign it. I hope you may have received it about this time. In that letter I stated that a partial skeleton of the Megatherium with the iron part had been offered to Mr. Ephraim Brown of Lowell by the Hunterian Museum for some 25 pounds. I want you to look at it as soon as may be and get your opinion 1st whether as it is it would be a desirable acquisition to our cabinet and 2ndly whether you could not get the molds either at the Hunterian Museum or the British Museum of the missing parts and without too much expense have them executed. Professor Quekett Curator of the College of Surgeons is the man who spoke of the thing to Mr. Brown and the latter I think has just written to him on the subject. I think he and Doctor Allen would meet the expenses if not too large and a cast of the whole or nearly the whole of the skeleton could be got. It would indeed be a splendid acquisition if it is practicable and you being just the man to decide that question and so I have written to Mr. Brown. You...

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...may find that thing quite beyond our means and too heavy an undertaking for yourself. But I hope you will look at it at once and let me know. Mr. Brown has the refusal of the thing for a little while.

Before this reaches you you all have doubtless learned that a Republican president has been elected. We shall now see whether the southern fire eaters will carry their threats of succession in into execution. I seek on they will wait a little because there will be a majority both in the Senate and House of anti-Republicans who can of course block the wheels if they please. Andrews is chosen governor of Massachusetts—in this region things have gone on as usual except that Boltwood is dropped from the Senate.

Charles has gone to Hanover and I feel lonely but do not mean to complain. He will probably write you. Probably the Vermont legislature have refused to publish our report—the matter was decided Friday. Most likely Hager had about given up all hope from a letter a few days ago. My family monument has arrived and is put up without George and is finally executed though too plain to be commended by the public and perhaps the form is a little defective. Final cost not more than \$750.

I just received a letter from Rev. John Duns. He is now lecturer in the College of Grace Church and if you go to Edinburgh I think you will find him there. If you see him please thank him for his letter. I think he will treat you kindly. He is almost publishing some interesting works. If you go to Glasgow remember that Henry D. Rogers is professor there and call upon him. I was surprised to hear you say that you thought of returning in midwinter: but you must judge what is best. I do not know how much discomfort there is in a winter voyage though I could not endure the cold. Perhaps you will like John Bull so well as to wish to stay longer.

November 12th I saw Mr. Colton of E. Hampton today. He says things are in a good state there. But I understand that he has alluded to this in his letter which Ma has alluded to below and so I will not add.

I do not know that the girls and Ma have sent by you for jewelry etc. or I should have authorized you to expand from \$10—\$15 for this object. You may still do this if you find anything desirable for them and your father will permit you to advance that sum.

I hope to have this go by the steamer Europe which leaves Boston on Wednesday and so I must close by commending you to a kind Providence when you wander on the land or the sea.

Affectionately yours
Edward Hitchcock

(See next page)

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[In Orra's hand]

Monday morn. Nov. 12. I hope you are snugly quistered in some comfortable rooms in London before this time but unless you are in some high loft I imagine you are wanting more light—at least I remember that to be my first feeling when I attempted to do anything in my room. I presume this season of the year you are dining by candlelight. I hope you are at Mrs. Randall's for her boarding house is suited to the American taste than most and if you are remember me kindly to her. I doubt not you will be more happy in London than you were in Paris—you will have more social enjoyment and better roast beef and mutton and a thousand things of interest. I hope you have found Prof. Owen—we have not heard from

him—if you come home in February Charles will probably not go until after your return and he can have some profit by your experience week. We have heard that Mr. Wordsworth is wishing to go and I hope Charles may have his company if they can arrange the time.

We are getting settled down for the winter. Our children are reduced to two in number. Emily went with Kate as she was anticipating. She enjoyed her journey but was a little homesick for a time. Mr. Storrs however has purchased a new piano and that has driven her homesickness far away. I shall send them your address for that they may write you soon. The day of the election Mr. S. took little Charlie down to the polls and he put in his vote for Lincoln. [Charles N. Hitchcock b. 1859]

Your father and I attended the Jubilee occasions of the A.B.C.F.M. [American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions; see VT Chronicle Oct 9 1860 at GaleVault] and stayed at Mr. Tappan's where we had a nice time except that we both came home with a prevalent influenza which was very severe upon your father—he is hardly out of it yet. While in Boston we visited the Aqualogical garden and enjoyed seeing the seals, the Kangaroos, etc. etc. but you will have a much greater treat in the Aqualogical gardens in London. Having written down this page I now turn back to the other.

I have turned back from the other page to continue writing but really I do not think of anything that has taken place here since you left which will be of any special interest to you. We are going on much as usual as well on a quiet way. The Gymnasium is in successful operation this term with Dr. Hawkin's instructions. I think the students are much taken with it. They exercise themselves so wildly that when they go to their rooms they are glad to rest rather than go about to seek mischief. In this respect it is an evident improvement.

I suppose you see American papers enough to inform you of the sensation aroused by the prince's visit here. I trust we shall soon hear of his arrival home. I wonder if he can sit down and quickly pursue his studies at Oxford after all this fuss made over him. If so I think he is preparing to make a wise king.

I will endeavor to write again soon and live leave the space for Jane.

From your affectionate mother OWH

Dear Ed. I thank you or rather we thank you very much for all your trouble about the pins. Are these three pins and one pair of sleeve buttons all for Mary and me? We should like to know the prices of these sometime when you are writing so we can tell how to divide them for you know I gave you three dollars and she, one. The smaller ones and the buttons are very pretty the petrification is curious and rather pretty I think though I am some doubt whether it looks really nice enough to wear for a dress pin. I should have liked a smaller one full as well, especially if it had a gold setting but very likely you could not have found one for only three dollars. I had an idea jewelry was cheaper in Europe than in America. I am afraid it has made for much trouble already. I really hope sometime I shall be able to do as much for you. I am going to a party tonight and expect to come out in one of the pins. I have no room for anything more. Your letters are always most welcome. Matters and things here at home remain in status quo. I write to your Peggy a day or Wednesday Aff. Jane E.

[OWH to EHJ, 6 December 1860, EOH, Series 10-B, Box 25, Folder 14]

Amherst Dec. 6 1860

Dear Edward

Your letter from London was received a few days since. I seem to be quite taken by surprise at the idea suggested it is drawing near the time for you to return—and that we may send no more letters to reach you after the 25th. But I suppose the time is not gone so rapidly with you. We are now fairly set in for winter. One week of vacation has gone – sleighing has come (but not skating yet) days short, but not severely cold. We are all in tolerable health. Your father has been suffering much from his cough etc. but has of late been somewhat better. We saw Mr. Hopkins of Northampton the other day and he told us of his visit to Dr. Lee...

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...at his palace near Aylesbury where he spends his summers and his winters in London. He says he hopes you will not fail to call upon him—you will find him exceedingly pleasant and much interested in Americans. You have a letter of introduction to him. We met him and his wife in Edinburgh. Also Mr. Wrigley our E. Street beer maker says his wife's brother John White is gatekeeper at Lincoln's Fields if you should want any little favor or would like to speak to him do so—for aught I know he may be my 59th cousin, for I am certainly a descendent of Elder John White who came to this country in 1632.

We had a quiet and lonely Thanksgiving—only us four with Mr. Henry who boards with us to take care of us this winter. Our thoughts were compelled to wander in various parts to gather the scattered members of our household—but we had the good fortune to get your letter on that day which was exceedingly agreeable. I hope you will spend Christmas in London and report to us when you return.

[Written along top edge of page 1]

Though you may be 3000 miles off I think you will be interested to know that your father has purchased a new horse and that Tobias has left the stable of Dr. N. and for any other where Mr. Cooke shall please to put him. Please furnish yourself with warm clothing if you attempt to cross the ocean this winter.
Mother

[Written along top edge of page 2]

Dr. Lee is a warm friend of Mr. John Tappan.

Letter 174

[EH to Henry Van Lennep, 30 April 1863, EOH, Series 2-B, Box 5, Folder 27]

Amherst April 30th 1863

My dear Sir

I am very much afraid as my thoughts turn to the subject that I have never formally acknowledged receipt of the magnificent present you made me of a copy of your Oriental album several months ago. If so I am sure it was not because I undervalued it or was not grateful but simply because the past winter has been a season of intense suffering and protraction from my own sickness and that of my wife so that I have neglected almost every...

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...thing not demanding immediate attention. The present merited my sincere gratitude as well as that of my family: the only drawback was that I felt at first as if I had no claims to such a valuable remembrance. But I was easily persuaded to pardon the act when I thought of the generosity of your nature.

I have read the work with intense interest and great profit for it is really a rich mine of information respecting the Orientals and presented in so attractive a dress that we cannot help reading it. It will be a permanent monument to your industry and ability and especially to your perseverance and the terrible calamities that came upon you.

Mrs. Hitchcock has now been very low for seven weeks with pneumonia but thanks to Providence we think she is gradually rising. I cannot but the reverse. Such suffering as I now endure cannot long be sustained. I shall soon enter the dark valley if indeed I am not already there. Oh my dear brother pray for me that I may be able to take a firmer hold of my Saviour's arm and not be left to do anything that will dishonor him in this dark hour.

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Remember me and my family affectionately to your wife and believe me truly yours with Christian regards

Edward Hitchcock

Letter 175

[Huntington to EH, 30 May 1863, EOH, Series 9-B, Box 25, Folder 4]

Cleveland May 30th 1863

My dear Uncle Edward

I was greatly shocked and grieved this morning to hear of the death of dear Aunt Orra. We have heard from time to time for the last few weeks of her feebleness but had much hope that as the warm weather came on she would be better and be spared to you and to her children and friends for many years to come. I cannot tell you dear Uncle how deeply I feel for you in this bereavement. For I know how much she has been to you through years of active public life and how her cheerful attention to all your wants, has been the comfort and support of later years of feebleness and physical suffering. God grant you the rich consolations of His grace at this trying hour and the strength to bear the heavy load...

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...until the time of blessed reunion beyond the flood where infirmities and separation and death are unknown. How large the company of dear ones in heaven and how the number is increasing. My dear father so recently going up from the conflicts and trials of earth and now here in Orra and soon if we are God's people we shall all be there. I loved this dear aunt tenderly and remember the kind welcome she always gave me at your house and how much she did to make all her nephews and nieces happy and to improve their characters. It will always be a source of pleasure to my husband and me that she and you made us that visit at Cleveland some years ago and that we had the pleasure of seeing you at our table and fireside. Since father's death you and uncle Charlie have seemed nearer and dearer than ever before—may you both be sustained and comforted in your loneliness and at last “come off more than conquerors through Him who loves us and gave himself for us.” My husband unites with me in every expression of sympathy and respect—he would write you at this time but fearing you might be burdened with so many letters he requested me to ask you to accept his hearty sympathy and sincere wishes that your health may be improved.

Please present our affectionate regards to all our dear cousins. I am rejoiced that Kate was with you at this sad time. I was sorry not to see her as she passed through Cleveland. Believe me dear Uncle your untended niece

E. H. Huntington

Letter 176

[Barrows to EH, 30 May 1863, EOH, Series 9-B, Box 25, Folder 4]

Andover, May 30, 1863.

My very dear afflicted friend:

Permit one one who has always felt a special interest in you and your labors, and who is now in the providence of God, more newly connected you by family ties, to approach you in your deep sorrow by a comforting word. Although human sympathy cannot itself reach the care of one who is bereaved in such a way as you know are, it may yet be the channel through which God is pleased to impart to the soul a portion of his divine consolation. And his consolation is always efficient. Even a few drops of it are able to bring to the bosom "the peace of God which passeth all understanding," how much more the full river

of it, which is always at his disposal, and can be bestowed...

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...by him how and when he pleases. When Jesus was on earth, he was always an effectual comforter. His word: "weep not," was sufficient to dry up every fountain of tears. Now that he sits at the right hand of God, he has lost none of his power to comfort his afflicted disciples. It is not necessary that he take away a trial in its outward form. Such a trial as he has laid upon you will not be removed outwardly while your tabernacle in the flesh, nor can it be outwardly made good to you. But Christ's grace can raise you above it, and he delights to show the power of that grace to those who, in the dark night of sorrow, come to him for strength and comfort. The ends which he accomplishes by taking from us our most precious earthly treasures is the manifestation in a practical way of his almighty power to bless sustain and cheer the heart that puts its trust in him. It is his prerogative everywhere to be the satisfying portion of those who, in the loss of earthly comforts, make him there "all in all." That you may now in the time of your necessity find him your own "all in all" is the sincere prayer of your sympathizing friends.

In our deepest trials we ought my dear sir always to remember the many mercies mingled with them. In the case of your dear departed companion how many and how rich are they! She was a "help meet" for you in the highest and noblest sense. For how many happy years was she spared to you and your children; and when at last the appointed hour for her departure came it found her ready – her loins girt, and her lamp trimmed and burning. Few...

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...men have been so blessed as you in having such a companion to cheer and help you in your pilgrimage through this vale of tears. For all this God is now to be devoutly praised.

And then the parting is but brief – brief absolutely—but in the case of a gray-headed Christian like yourself, brief in a special sense. During the few remaining days of your earthly pilgrimage your covenant God will be with you. He will not forsake you when your turn comes to pass through the dark valley which is to all believers the gateway to glory everlasting. Then, when flesh and heart fail, he will put his everlasting arms underneath you, and bear you safe home to his father's house where there are many mansions. There the union with Christ will be perfect, and the reunion with our dear friends who have died in Jesus eternal.

All the members of my family tender to you their affectionate sympathy.

Very truly yours

P. Barrows

Letter 177

[Jessup to Sisters, 4 June 1863, EOH, Series 9-B, Box 25, Folder 5]

Oxford, O June 4, 1863

To the Three Sisters

My Dear Friends

The sad intelligence of your dear Mother's death and of the severe sickness of your Father was received yesterday. I hasten to assure you of my sympathy and affliction and he's trying Providences.

Your dear parents were more to me than common friends. I loved and revered them with almost a filial affection. Their kindness to me personally, and their love for our dear seminary were sufficient to secure this result.

But it was their beautiful characters their exemplification of whatever was pure and ennobling in humanity that made them so generally beloved by all who knew them.

Few can leave so many real...

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...mourners as your honored parents.

I am exceedingly anxious to hear all about your Mother's sickness and departure, and to know whether your dear Father still lives and how he is.

If he is well enough to be disturbed by distant friends, please assure him of my earnest and prayerful interest, and of my gratitude for all his past kindness.

I am sure many prayers are ascending in his behalf, and I cannot but think that he may again be raised up, as he was five years ago in answer to prayer. But if not, Death will I trust as before lose all his terrors and the entrance into the Heavenly kingdom be triumphant.

I do not feel that I ought to ask any of you to write the particulars of the sad scenes through which you have been passing for me. There are many others whose claims are paramount to mine. Yet let me assure you that anything whether published or written for others would be gratefully received and if you desired promptly returned. No particulars were written me from S. Hadley and I can think of nothing else since I heard of what is transpiring at Amherst.

"Passing away" seems to be written on everything I see today.

May God bless and keep you all and sanctify to you these great bereavements!

Please remember me to your brothers into all our mutual friends who may speak of me.

One word concerning myself. I hope I am improving in health most of the time. Can walk with crutches going up and down stairs alone. I can teach several hours in a day and enjoy still many privileges of

healthy people. Fanny Reed is here, expecting to graduate in five weeks. Emma is at home, something of an invalid. Her teaching at Steubenville has been suspended on...

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...this account for six months. She cannot make much mental effort and particularly in the line of writing. But for this I think you Emily would hear from her pen. We write for her when we can. She has spent a part of the summer visiting us at the Seminary, her mother's sickness called her home. F. is very busy but will I think write a note to accompany this. We have heard dear E. pleasant news concerning yourself. Accept my congratulations and best wishes. We never see your Cincinnati sister but hear through the papers occasionally of Mr. Storrs. I hope they were with you when you parted with your best of Mothers. Please remember me to them and assure them that a warm welcome awaits them in our Seminary in Oxford whenever they shall honor us with their presence. With a heart full of love to all of you I am

Yours in sympathy and affliction

Emily Jessup

Miss Peabody wishes to unite with me in this expression of interest and sympathy.

[Emily Jessup was a teacher at Mount Holyoke 1847-1855, associate principal 1855-1862, and associate principal at Western Female Seminary, Oxford, Ohio, from 1862 – 1877.]

Letter 178

[Bela White to EH, 10 June 1863, EOH, Series 9-B, Box 25, Folder 4]

Kenosha N. T. June 10th 1863

Dear brother Hitchcock,

Charles's letter of May 27th has been received informing me of the death of your Wife. It was to me quite unexpected although I knew that she had been a long while sick, but still fondly hoping as I presume you did that she might again get well. It seems that an overruling Providence has determined otherwise, and such being the case it is our duty to try to be resigned to the will of Him who doeth all things for the best, and instead of murmuring, may we be enabled by the help of Divine Wisdom, to look at the bright side, and to realize that this loss to us is infinite gain to her, and be thankful that she has been spared more than average length of time which is allotted to the human family; ever bearing in mind that God gave and hath also taken away. That she has lived to see all her family arrive to the years of maturity under...

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...her special care and teaching, and also to see them (all I believe) the professed followers of Christ, and

several of them settled comfortably, and as we hope usefully in life.

And may especially her children ever keep in mind those lessons of instruction which were taught them by her; and as I trust and hope have had a happy effect in preparing them for usefulness in this life, and happiness hereafter.

And now to you my dear brother whose life is drawing near to the three score and ten years, said to be all others to man, I hope and pray that God in whom you have this long put your trust will not now forsake you in your declining years, but still sustain you in this house of trial, which is I have no doubt the greatest one which has befallen you during your life; and may you bear in mind that although you have been thus deprived of a kind and affectionate companion, that you are still not left alone in the world, but that you are surrounded by kind and dutiful children, who no doubt will do all in their power to render life comfortable and happy to you.

Charles merely mentioned in his letter that you were quite feeble, but stated no particulars. I hope and trust that I shall hear from you on your receipt of this letter and also from your children, and that a correspondence may be kept up between us. And now my dear brother my earnest and sincere prayer is that this severe affliction may be sanctified both to you and me, and all her surviving relatives and friends, and that we may be ever ready and prepared to follow her whenever God's Providence may see fit to call us whether sooner or later.

Give my best love to all your children and believe still your affectionate friend and brother

Bela White

Letter 179

[Vaill to EH, 17 June 1863, EOH, Series 9-B, Box 25, Folder 4]

Palmer June 17, 1863

Rev. Dr. Hitchcock,

My Dear Sir,

It was with surprise and deep grief that I saw a notice a few weeks since of the demise of your excellent wife. My surprise arose in the fact that I had not heard a word of her illness and my grief not so much on her account having reached her long anticipated peaceful home in heaven but on your account knowing how much you leaned upon that faithful wife, and on account of the loss to the world of another such praying one so much needed in this day of alarming iniquity.

I have been aware of the feebleness of your health, and really I feared that this sudden and heavy stroke might quite unman you and bring yourself somewhat earlier than otherwise to the grave.

But then, I knew how you had preached "Jesus" to others as the mourner's friend and I felt sure that you would avail yourself of the supports of his presence and grace in this day of your sore bereavement. Surely you mourn, not as those that have no hope. Your good wife was ripe for glory and God has taken her home. I admired her not only as eminently an exemplary and intelligent Christian, but also as a cheerful one. I admire to see religion associated with cheerfulness and not with gloom. Of all persons, the devoted Christian has occasion to be cheerful. While death to her is great gain, you and your family and the college and the church and the world experience an irreparable loss. May your covenant God place underneath you his everlasting arms and soothe and comfort your aching heart.

Three of my college classmates of old Yale had recently died, all of whom were present when two years ago we celebrated our fiftieth anniversary of graduation. One of those three, his Ex. Gov. R. S. Baldwin of Con. and Dr. Ralph Emerson late professor at Andover. Almost 73 years have passed over me, but...

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...God gives me strength yet and I am holding on, perhaps presumptuously, upon my ministry here, now passing my ninth year with this flock. I owe it to very kind Providence that I am yet enabled to write and preach as aforetime.

Mrs. Vaill unites with me in tender sympathy with you, and your dear family and an affectionate remembrance to you and them.

God bless you my dear afflicted brother. My regards for you has always been strong and sincere and never more tender than now.

Very affectionately and fraternally yours—

Joseph Vaill

Letter 180

[Tappan to MH, 20 June 1863, EOH, Series 9-B, Box 25, Folder 5]

Boston June 20th 1863

Miss Mary Hitchcock

My Dear Friend

Mr. Tappan and myself after an absence of more than six weeks returned last evening and found in the

Congregationalist the painful intelligence of your dear Mother's decease. Sometime since having heard that Dr. H. feeble we at first thought it must be a mistake and that a life on which so much of the happiness of others seemed centered would be spared and that your honored and beloved Father had been called to end his worried life but the paper was before me and the most appropriate and just applicative truly her record is on high as well as on the hearts of all who knew and loved the image of her Saviour made visible, by her daily life and conversation and if to those who occasionally saw her this effect was...

Page 2

...produced how much more must your dear Father, Sisters, and Brothers feel the void created by her absence, and yet in reviewing all these will you not from your hearts desire to put the answer of the Shunammite, "It is well!" though divine grace alone can enable you to feel this at all.

Be assured your Father and each of you have our warmest sympathy and at a convenient time will you write us any particulars concerning the event remembering our claims as friends of years standing into whose joys and sorrows we have participated.

I directed this to you my dear instead of your Father or Brothers not knowing your Father's state of health are whether Mrs. Storrs with her family were with you. We have been benefitted in health somewhat, by our absence but have no plans for the summer but expect to be here on few days. Elizabeth is with us and unites in regards in sympathy with your truly affectionate M . Tappan

Letter 181

[Ely to EH, 7 July 1863, EOH, Series 9-B, Box 25, Folder 4]

Monson July 7 1863

Dr. Hitchcock

Dear Sir

I am paralyzed it is therefore difficult for me to write and my son Rev. Mr. Alvord is going to Amherst today. I want to write a word expressing my Christian sympathy in your affliction. The death of a beloved wife is a very great affliction. I have been called to pass through the same scene twice. But you must not despair of He who gave her has taken away. Be thankful for the past and trust in him for the future and he will surely sustain you. Cast your care upon him, for he careth for you. A promise is my grace insufficient for you He is faithful who has promised who also will do it. You must not yield to despondency. You are...

Page 2

You have the prayers the Christian sympathy of many. May you be able to say from the heart the Lord gave and the Lord is taken away. Blessed be the name of the Lord may your hope and trust in God be greatly strengthened and you come forth from the furnace purified and prepared for the eternal union with your dear one and all the redeemed in that world where there is no one more death nor sorrow. May you enjoy the presence of Christ in all your afflictions and be animated with the assured hope of meeting your dear departed one in a better world never more to be separated. Be of good courage He shall strengthen thy heart. We shall soon be I hope on the peaceful shore of blessed eternity. With my Christian love and sympathy I am dear brother in Xs (Christ) yours in hope of a better world.

A. Ely

Letter 182

[Van Lennep to EH, 25 July 1863, EOH, Series 2-A, Box 4, Folder 9]

New York, July 25, 1863

Professor Edward Hitchcock, D.D.

Amherst College

My dear friend,

I was quite shocked, about a fortnight ago on a visit to my family in Hartford, to hear that private letters have been received from Amherst mentioning the departure of our dear Mrs. Hitchcock as something we must have learned before. Having seen no account in any of the papers, I for some time thought there must be a mistake. But it has since been confirmed from other quarters, we need additional intelligence that your own health was extremely poor.

I had hoped for some time that I might avail myself of the kind invitation I had received to be in Amherst during commencement week, but pressing duties have opposed an effectual barrier. It would have been very delightful to us to witness the College...

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...gatherings once more before leaving the country, but they would have been much pain united with it. Your house has been the center of attraction to me there for many years, and now its chief ornament and grace has been transferred to higher sites and more joyous spheres. Your own health now would probably have prevented the indulgence in those familiar and to me most delightful and instructive chats, which have made my visits to Alma Mater and return to the springs of intelligence and piety where I could draw draft after drafted into my parched soul.

I hardly know what to say to you my dear sir in view of what you have just passed through. I feel that all I might say would be so far below the monster of your feelings, and so dark compared to the light shed around the deathbed of an eminent Saint, that it becomes me to keep silence, to tread softly, and instead of seeking to impart consolation, to catch from you all the inspiration which those trying moments have poured into your soul. May God's gracious presence dwell and abide with you continually! May His comforts fill your soul to overflowing!

I still cherish the type that, ere we sail to return to our Missionary labors, in October, I may be permitted to make a last pilgrimage to that glorious hill in Amherst. I trust God will spare you long enough for me to press once more your hand in mine to catch a few more words from your lips, and snatch a piece at least of the mantle you have so long borne in the sight of your loving pupils.

Please remember me very affectionately to those of your family who may be at home and to all inquiring friends and believe me

as ever

Your affectionate pupil,

Henry L. Van Lennep

Letter 183

[Mussey to EH, 15 August 1863, EOH, Series 9-B, Box 25, Folder 4]

Littleton Mass.
August 15, 1863

Professor Hitchcock L.L.D.

My dear Sir,

Three weeks ago, when I was coming to Littleton, I sat in the cars near to Rev. Mr. Bigelow, one of the sons of your college. He gave me information which deeply excited my sympathies namely that you had been called to part with your excellent wife and that your own health was very feeble.

Since coming here, your letter has been forwarded to me, for which I am much obliged.

You are deeply grateful, I doubt not, for the aid you have received through your cares and trials, and in your arduous labors for many years—and you still rely upon...

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...the same Good Spirit to carry you through, and bring you to the rest that remains for the people of God. If we are the followers of Christ, we shall meet again. Adieu, my dear friend and brother.

R. D. Mussey (by his daughter C. S. M. Hartwell)

Please make my particular regards to your family R. D. M.

Letter 184

[Dewey to EHJ, 2 May 1864, EOH, Series 9-B, Box 25, Folder 4]

University of Rochester

May 2, 1864

My Dear Sir,

For so, I trust, I may address you, a son of the parents whom I learned to love and honor long ago. I once visited them in their home, and rejoiced in the home God had given their children through them, and among the children I may seen your young self, though probably you may have been of the younger past. The death of your honored Father awakened the memories of older times of our lives and recalled the seasons that were full of interest then. Your father died in his 71st year, I think, and I am in my 79th, older than he by more years than I thought. I became much interested in him before he left the principalship at Deerfield Academy, for his mathematical acquisitions and his im...

Page 2

...portant geological and mineralogical as well as botanical, acquisitions in the years preceding 1821. My own knowledge was young and small then, and in a few years after it was clear that he was on the rapid progress in Min, and geology and its philosophy especially, that I should not keep by his order.

When he was settled in Conway I preached his ordination sermon, as you may know, as the Rev. Prof. Fitch of Yale was too ill and too much loaded with work to do it, as he hoped. Though I went prepared to preach, by consent of the Council, I think it was not known that he could not come so that I knew of it before coming to Conway. Even with probability, I was glad to visit Conway to become personally acquainted with your father as well as to other clergymen and that part of Massachusetts. In other years I met him many times at the Geological and other appropriate scientific; but how often desired to see him in his great Cabinet at the College. When he examined Ward's Cabinet and was so delighted, attended by your mother, I rejoiced to greet them both, all I regretted was the shortness of their stay and that his attention was so exclusively on that Cabinet as he could not stay for visiting. To your loved mother I was under high obligations, as I tried duly to express to both, for her many drawings of species

of Carex I was publishing in Silliman's journal.

I rejoice that he was spared to publish his work on the College, and hope yet to read it as it must honor him greatly, if it does not mention his name. Its history for that period must invoke his doings and life. I have his photograph and wish it was attended by his wife's.

Interested as I have felt in him and her, I have deigned to say so to some one of their children; and using your names I fixed upon you for this letter, though...

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...I could not expect to say what I have. I cannot augment the honor that science on both sides of the Atlantic has heaped on his head deservedly; but I may say that I rejoice in it, and think that in it the scientific hour honored themselves. Savans may well be wise. Then, that all this honor is crowned in faith—faith in Jesus, as the [????] on the cup for the redemption of man—faith that honors the Son, or it honors the Father, and is childlike, humble, loving at the foot of the cross, and which brings eternal life to the soul from Him who died and rose and wherewith to plead for his people. And such was the faith too of that loved and loving mother. Both gone – yes, happily gone—both blessed in heaven—God grant we may hold like persons faith in our blessed Lord and Master. Amen.

Loved for the parents' sake as well as for your own good name, accept my cordial substitutions

C. Dewey

Ed. Hitchcock M.D. Professor Amherst

[Written across edge of page]

To Lucius Boltwood Esq. my cordial respects, not forgetting Prof. Tuckerman the mentor of whom I was.

Letter 185

[OWH to Caldwell, undated, EOH, Series 10-B, Box 25, Folder 20]

Amherst College Mass. is situated on a beautiful eminence, in the valley of the Connecticut, and about 4 miles from the river. It lies 50 miles north of Hartford, and is about equally distant 90 miles from Yale, Brown, Harvard, Dartmouth and Union Colleges. It is a day's ride from Albany and Troy—the same from Boston; from 25 to 30 hours from New York. It has three large brick buildings each 100 feet long and four stories high for the accommodation of Students, besides one still larger for a chapel, library, cabinet, lecture rooms, etc.

Its charity fund pays the tuition of indigent students whose object is the Christian ministry. The course of study is essentially the same as at Yale College and bills including tuition room rent use of library and public rooms from \$42 to \$44 annually. Board from a \$1.25 to \$1.50 per week.

I suppose you will not care about preserving the description on the other side of the paper and if you wish for more of the views of Amherst College I will write more letters on this paper as I know of no other way of making them except by mail. You can cut off the pictures if you wish to save the description too, just say so in your next letter and I will not ??? on it.

One word or two to Miss Caldwell—I wish to know respecting your health— Husband said you were feeble when he left—Was not that ride in the stage too much for you. I felt much anxiety after you left, lest you should be obliged to stop upon the way among strangers. Did you find any company? Mr. Adams went down Wednesday morning—slept here Thursday night and the stage took him a our door— I was very sorry you did not wait for him—you know you could have talked phrenology all the way down. Jane says she loves Mr. B the best now, because you have gone away, but if you would only stay here all the time she would love you the best. I think my husband becomes as much interested in animal magnetism as yourself. Will you write me part of a sheet with Mary very soon—with all the freedom that you would to one of your sisters.

OWH

Letter 186

[OWH to Sibling, undated, EOH, Series 7-D, Box 22, folder 8]

[This may have been written to Orra's brother, Bela. It appears to be in Edward's hand, possibly dictated by Orra.]

I find that you and I differ entirely in regard to the necessity of a change of heart. I sincerely believe that if our hearts are not changed we shall never go to heaven. If I did not believe so I am sure I should never trouble you anymore on the subject. You as well as I believe the bible to be the word of God: and if this does not teach the necessity of a new heart or a change of heart I do not wish you to believe such a doctrine. But let me ask you candidly to attend to a few passages. In the 3rd chapter of John's Gospel you recollect Christ told Nicodemus that except a man be "born of water and of the Spirit" he cannot enter into the kingdom of heaven. Whatever being born of water and the spirit means you will acknowledge that a man must experience it or he cannot go to heaven. Let me ask you then whether you have experienced it? And does not such a strong expression mean something more than a mere improvement of our hearts? Look to 2nd Corinthians 5:17. If any man be in Christ he is a new creature old things are passed away bold behold all things are become new. What is the difference between becoming a new creature and having a change of heart? And Paul does not say that some men must become new creatures: but if any man etc. Matthew 18:2. Christ says "Except ye be converted and become as little children you shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven." David prays (Psalm 51:10) Create in me a clean heart O God and renew a right spirit within me. Did not David feel the need of a change of heart? You speak of being able all your life to correct the areas of your heart so as to prepare you for heaven. But I believe something more than mere reformation of the moral conduct to be necessary. Paul says (Titus 3:5) Not by works of righteousness which we have done but according to his mercy he saved us by the working of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Ghost: and in another place

(2nd Corinthians 3:5) Not that we are sufficient of ourselves to think anything as of ourselves: but our sufficiency is of God. Mere morality will never save a man. No man was more moral than the young man described in Luke 18:22 yet Christ told him that he lacked one thing—and what was that except it were a religion or a change of heart? I have not time to quote more passages of the bible: but if these do not teach that it is necessary a man's heart should be changed what do they mean? And what do the following passages mean? (John 1:13, 1 Peter 1:23, 1 John 5:4...

Page 2

...1 Corinthians 1:14, Ephesians 2:1-3, Romans 8:5, 6, 7, & 8, Ephesians 1: 16, 17, 18, 19 etc.)

As to attending balls and the theater I have now only a word or two to say—I find that my conscience is clearest when I undertake nothing but what I can pray for the blessing of God to accompany it. And it seems to me a good rule that it is best to do nothing which we shall not look upon with pleasure when we come to lie upon a deathbed. If now you find that you can go into your closet and pray God to bless you when you are about to go to a ball or a theatre and if you find that going to these places has a tendency to dispose you to pray more in earnest in your closet after coming away then I should certainly advise you to continue the practice of going to them. They used to have a contrary effect upon me and I do not recollect ever having prayed before going to a ball or after I returned.

Perhaps you may think because I am the wife of a minister I have become a preacher too—or have been copying one of my husband's sermons. But I assure you I do feel exceedingly anxious for you—I know that we shall soon die and I want to have you and myself prepared for that solemn day. And believing as I most forcibly do that without a change of heart neither of us can enter heaven how would I think of meeting you at the bar of God unless I had faithfully told you of it? I know you will not impute it to bad motives in a sister. You have my prayers and I shall have them while I live: and I earnestly entreat you to read the bible daily with prayer.

[Written upside down on page 1]

Vain is the ridicule with which one sees some persons will divert themselves, upon finding lesser pain considered as instances of divine punishment. There is no possibility of answering or evading the general thing here intended without denying all final causes. For final causes being admitted the persons and pains now mentioned must be admitted too as instances of them. And if they are; if God annexes delight to some actions and uneasiness to others with an apparent design to induce us to act so and so then he not only disburses happiness and misery but also several rewards and punishes actions.

Letter 187

[EH to EHJ, 13 December 1841, EMJH, Series 3-A, Box 8, Folder 20]

Boston December 13th 1841

My dear Son,

I was very glad to receive a letter from you and Mamma last Thursday just as I started for Salem although it was delayed several days by being directed to the United States Hotel as I did not stop there. It did indeed contain melancholy news respecting Mr. Snell's family: but how thankful I ought to be that none of our family were taken away. Yet I hope that you and Jane and all the rest of the children will not forget that it may be your turn next. Will not every one of you oblige me so much as to spend one quarter of an hour some evening in enquiring whether you are ready to go.

I have spent both the sabbaths I have been absent at Newburyport—the last one in Mr. Bannister's family – Mrs. B. particularly desires to be remembered to Ma. This evening I am seeing Mr. Adams from Amherst who says he saw you last Wednesday and as you...

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...sent no word I hope you were then all well.

I have great reason to be thankful that I have been carried through my labors thus far so comfortably. It is very hard work to lecture in such large rooms and so long: but I have fulfilled all my engagements thus far punctually. Both evenings at Newburyport it rained very hard. Tomorrow evening I hope to lecture at Charlestown and then on Wednesday go to Norwich. If the prospect were not so very faint that I shall be able to reach home on Saturday I should request you to come that day to the railroad at Palmer. But perhaps it will not be best to do it unless the day is pleasant and the traveling good and you should want a ride. I assure you I shall come home as soon as I can: for I am quite homesick and long for a little quiet. If I were as young as you I might choose to stay away. But I see almost nothing new and I'm tired of the noise and nonsense of the city.

Tell mamma that she is getting more celebrity by my lectures than I am: for all seem to know that she made the drawings. The old Iguanodon excites not a little amusement and I find my audience thus far increased from evening to evening.

Tell Mrs. Fiske that I called today at Mr. Vinal's in Charlestown and found Mrs. Vinal quite sick with a rheumatic fever.

I see no way but the new calf must be fattened—though I hate to have him killed. I wish we could sell or give him away. By the way I presume that before I get home you will receive from the railroad a very curious double calf or rather his skin. It has eight legs two heads etc. and was given to the college by Mr.

Jones of Newburyport. You will find also a curious fish or two and the cast of a large bone of Megatherium from the N. W. coast of America.

With love to Ma and the rest of the children I subscribe myself your affectionate father

[Edward Hitchcock's signature has been cut out]

Envelope: Master Edward Hitchcock Jr.
Care of Professor Hitchcock
Amherst

[Along the edge] Grandfather (two-headed calf)

Letter 188

[EH to EHJ, 25 September 1850, EMJH, Series 3-A, Box 8, Folder 20]

Thursday, September 25th 1850

My dear Son,

We have now been a fortnight in this magnificent city and yet we have seen only a small part of the interesting objects in the place and around it. Upon the whole it is decidedly before London in many respects although less populous- London having 2,500,000 and Paris 1,500,000. But the palaces of Paris and in vicinity go far beyond all that I had dreamed in respect to regal splendour. But I will not attempt any description for I should certainly fail to convey to you any correct notions of the subject.

We have engaged a passage to the United States in the steamer America that sails from Liverpool October 5. Not improbably we may be delayed beyond that date. But at any rate we must leave Paris in a day or two and I was anxious to address a letter to you before I go in regard to one or two special matters while I wish you only to know. You are aware that I have devoted considerable time this summer past to visiting agricultural schools in Europe at the request of the Government of Massachusetts. I have been more successful than expected in the work especially when I consider my ignorance of the continental languages. But I cannot make a report while in Europe. Yet I have just written to Honorable Wilder of Boston giving as the result of my investigations my views of what ought to be done in Massachusetts. Now should I never reach home I should hope something may be allowed me by the government for my services—at least my expenses or a part of them. I should probably have returned home in August had not this business occupied me. I have indeed occasionally turned off for a short time from the route necessary to be gone over to visit the Agricultural Schools but eventually the two routes have converged.

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True there have been two of us whose expenses have had to be met. But as I had not intended to charge any thing for my time perhaps the Gov. may allow my expenses from the time (June 25th) when I began to search out the schools. I shall put down below my necessary expenses after that date to the present and should I never reach home I advise you to present this statement to the Government in the

confidence that they will be generous in the matter as they always have been to me.

In England Ireland and Scotland £68–11–10 (about) \$343

In Germany Switzerland and France £46–3–4 (about) \$231

[TOTAL] Amount £114–15–2 \$574

To reach Liverpool will cost me \$50 more and then the passage in the steamer will be before \$350 but of these I say nothing: for I may never live to incur these expenses. You understand that I wish to put this statement into your hands to be used only in case I never return.

I will here say a few words respecting my health and prospects. I would not have you at present repeat what I say to others not even to our family: but I feel as if it were a duty to give you some idea of my state and feelings. The fact is that I cannot discover any substantial improvement of my health though the air of the continent agrees with me decidedly better than that of Great Britain and while in Switzerland I felt that I was improving. Yet upon the whole it has seemed to me that I have suffered more from my old complaints this summer than usual except that the actions of the lower bowels have been rather better I think. I do not see why disease has not been making a steady progress in my constitution in spite of every counteracting influence. My system has held out wonderfully. How much longer God wills it to last I cannot say. Though I have enjoyed much the past summer I have also suffered much probably much more than if I had been at home.

You will doubtless impute this discouraging statement in part at least to those desponding feelings which with me have such power. They may indeed give a darker coloring to the picture. But their existence is one proof of the bad state of my system for four I think they are worse than usual and that I have a much greater nervous instability than formerly. I also look upon as a bad symptom for the effect of journeying when good is to exhilarate the spirits and to bless the nervous sensibility.

One word as to the nature of the nervous despondency – the result mainly of diseased action in the chylopoetic viscera. It is terrible calamity and God save you and the other children from it—though poor Ma may already feel its influence! But I wish all the children to know that probably this trait in my character has enabled me to do what little I have done as a literary man. It always had a strong hold in my system and it was mainly that which roused me to effort and urged me forward while many a phlegmatic companion of superior talents sat still. If there be any poetic inspiration in any of my writings it sprang from this trait in my constitution. So that though now in advanced life its freedom in areas has become painful let me not forget it is been a powerful spring in all my intellectual efforts.

In such a state of my system you can readily conceive that I look forward to a voyage across the Atlantic with anxiety and aversion. Were not my children and duties on the other side of the ocean and could I support them here I now feel as if I would not venture back. But as it is I move forward in the work of preparation steadily but with a degree of anxiety and aversion of what you probably form little idea. My only hope is in God who alone can carry me through. Should his purpose however require that I perish by the way I can only say that in the papers left in the hands of Mr. Sweetser you will find my affairs arranged as well as I was able to do it. I do not recollect anything which I could wish altered.

I am rejoiced to say that your beloved mother seems to have derived benefit to her health from our journeys. This is some reward for her great self denial and sacrifice in accompanying me. Had she not

been with me it doesn't seem as if I could have gone through what I have. I have also to acknowledge God's goodness in raising up for me so many friends to aid me through my exigencies and we have passed through many of which I will tell you if permitted to see you again.

You may think me wanting in gratitude and faith after having experienced so much of God's goodness to fear that he will not carry me home in safety. I know indeed that I am ungrateful and distrustful. Yet never was my faith stronger in the great principles of our religion and in the overruling Providence of God. It seems as if His guiding hand has been almost as obvious towards us the past summer as if we have had the cloud by day and the pillar of fire by night to lead us. Nevertheless it may not be the best of all things considered either for ourselves or the universe that we should ever return home: and if so God will not permit but deny it in mercy. And I think that the great burthen of my prayer is that I may wait patiently to see what God's purposes are. Another strong desire is that if we should be called suddenly to die on the land or the sea we may not dishonour the religion we have professed but glorify God in death as well as in life. The fear that I may thus dishonor it is one source of my distresses. I do...

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...long to testify in death as well as in life that I prize the great truths of the Gospel above everything else. If I have borne any favorable testimony to it in life I wish to carry out the same testimony to the last. Our wanderings the past summer have not tended to diminish in us I fondly hope our trust in God and hope in his mercy. I have never before found my heart cleaving so strongly to eternal things as in the midst of the highest worldly splendour. It all seems to be emphatically vanity and veneration of spirit. And if I desire to go home as certainly I do it is mainly as it seems to me that I may do a little more before I die for the cause of God and man.

It is a source of great comfort to us that you and so many of our Christian friends are praying for our safety and safe return. Perhaps we may given as Paul expresses it to your prayers, though our own should not avail.

I am glad to learn by a letter from the children at home that you find your situation as pleasant as you expected. Doubtless you will find trying exigencies to go through. But try to do your duty and leave the rest to God and you will come out well in the end. I trust your motto is not—ant Caesar ant nullus—but that you desire to do things well because you can thus do the most good not in order to stand above all others. I hope you will remember that you probably have a physical constitution similar to mine and that your main safety lies in not overworking it as I did in early life. I rejoice that you have got through College without breaking down which I had hardly expected. Be willing to work hard and constantly; but work steadily and not beyond your strength. Let nothing but imperious duty tempt you to overtake your system task assistant even for short time. Work philosophically not spasmodically.

From all I can learn by recent letters (one was yesterday received from Prof. Warner) I judge that the College has experienced some reverses—I can hardly understand what has led to such a reduction in the numbers admitted this year. If troubles have come it presents no strong inducement to us to get into them. But I will not let these things disturb me: for I have scarcely a lingering doubt of the ultimate success by the Institution. But in this world when God means to make an individual or an institution useful and valuable he usually makes them pass through a severe discipline or a preparation. I have stood by the College while passing through many terrible exigencies. I could not endure another labour of this sort. But perhaps God does not mean to give me the opportunity.

If Mr. and Mrs. Williston are in East Hampton present our best respects to them. I hope Mr. W. has recovered. If still feeble I hope you will say to him that I hope he will deliberate well before he decides to cross the ocean for recovery and feel that for those quite feeble home is the best place.

I will cherish the hope that we may ere long meet in the flesh—as at least I will try to cherish it. But if not I will only say act well your part after I have gone and we will hope to meet in glory everlasting. Accept your mother's love and believe me your affectionate parents.

E. & O. Hitchcock

Envelope: Mr. Edward Hitchcock Jr., East Hampton Massachusetts United States
By the British mail steamer from Liverpool England

Return address: Dr. Hitchcock England

Postmarks: One is September 27, 1850; another September 26, 1850, from Ligne-de-Calais

Letter 189

[EH to EHJ, 10 June 1851, EMJH, Series 3-A, Box 8, Folder 20]

Amherst June 10th

Dear Son,

I am so feeble I doubt whether I can spare Charlie to go to Norwich—tomorrow if I understand your letter. I shall give Hartwell the same advice as you have about the Junior Class.

Mamma I suppose has written about the Chemical Text Book. I think you had better adopt it.

I am very much...

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...reduced. My symptoms are bad—I never had so terrible a cough. Nearly all my flesh has gone which I got by going to Europe. I do not know what the Lord intends to do with me but doubt not he will deal in mercy whatever be the result.

Sincerely yours

E. Hitchcock

Letter 190

[EH to EHJ, 23 July 1851, EMJH, Series 3-A, Box 8, Folder 20]

Amherst July 23^d 1851

My dear Son,

A variety of causes have led me to give up my trip to the White Mountains certainly till after commencement. But I have thought of going to the mouth of Connecticut river and perhaps along the coast eastward to New London or Providence. It occurred to me that possibly you might...

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...like that trip and if so and you could go on Wednesday next I would delay till that time. I should go by railroad that forenoon to Hartford and down the river from thence at 3 o'clock P.M. to Saybrook. I should take the barometers with me and perhaps measure a few terraces.

I should like to hear from you on the subject soon and will make no other arrangements till then.

I wish you would invite Mr. & Mrs. Williston and family to put up at our house at Commencement. I forgot to do it the other day though I wish them to consider the invitation as stereotyped so long as I am connected with the College.

Is your exhibition in the afternoon or evening?

Affectionately yours

E Hitchcock

Letter 191

[EH to EHJ, 29 July 1851, EMJH, Series 3-A, Box 8, Folder 20]

Amherst July 29th 1851

Dear Son,

My present plan is to go tomorrow by the cars from Northampton at 11 1/2 o'clock A.M. where I will meet you if you do not return with Charles. If I do not go (I took cold yesterday) I will...

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...send for you to Northampton. I expect to be absent only a few days.

Yours etc.

E. Hitchcock

Letter 192

[EH to EHJ, 14 September 1852, EMJH, Series 3-A, Box 8, Folder 20]

Amherst September 14th 1852

Dear Son,

I feel as if the N. Y. Reports [see below] were almost indispensable to any instructor in our northern institutions who means to sustain a respectable rank. They are his standard of appeal continually and I know of no American work so necessary to the naturalist. Yet they are expensive. But it ought to be remembered that the remaining volumes will come at a dollar each although worth 12 or 15 probably. I think also that it will soon be nearly impossible to get a full set. Whether the Williston Seminary will feel as if they could compete for those...

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...at Greenfield I know not. But should they get hold of a set I am sure they would not feel inclined to give them up.

The sale will commence about 10 o'clock Wednesday possibly a little earlier. I shall want you to bid for Mr. Shephard on the beryls and perhaps on some other things. I am yet in great doubt how far I shall compete for the larger slabs. Though some additions to the fund have come in I believe since you left. I have paid \$20 for the right to blast in Gill but the prospect is poor.

The family are well. I have had several attacks of diarrhea quite severe—but I am better now. No progress of consequence has been made on the library since you left.

In haste

Truly yours

E Hitchcock

[New York Reports may refer to James Hall's Geology of New York published in the 1840s.]

Letter 193

[EH to EHJ, 4 December 1852, EMJH, Series 3-A, Box 8, Folder 20]

Amherst December 4th 1852

My dear Son,

I wish you would say to Dr. Bigelow that my complaints seem to have settled within a few days into a severe infection of the throat and lungs and that I have great fears I should not be able to fulfill my appointments next Wednesday at Boston. I shall come if possible—I calculate to go on Tuesday and to stop at the Marlboro Hotel where I hope you will call on me. If not there in the evening I wish you would communicate with Dr. Bigelow also drop a line to Rufus J. Frost Esq. care of G. Colby and Co....

Page 2

...Boston or what will be as well call at that store and say that I cannot lecture at Chelsea on Thursday.

Perhaps you had better hand this to Dr. Bigelow to read. Do as you please however.

If I am able to come can you find a little time on Wednesday to help me put up my drawings.

If you have time also I wish you would call at G.'s Colby and Co. and find out from Mr. Frost whether their will at Chelseaville admit of putting up on my drawings and say to him that on their account I shall be obliged to go there as early as one or two o'clock on Thursday.

Charles has been has been threatened for some days with a fever but I think it will be thrown off.

In haste truly yours

Edward Hitchcock

Letter 194

[EH to EHJ, 15 December 1852, EMJH, Series 3-A, Box 8, Folder 20]

Manchester New Hampshire December 15th 1852

My dear Son,

Charles and I are here from Lawrence a few hours since and have the prospect of putting up our drawings this afternoon.

It occurred to me just now that I left my leggings at the Marlboro Hotel a week ago yesterday and I have not thought of them since. I handed them to one of the waiters and shall have to trouble you to call and try to get them. Now you can send them to me if they are not lost. I know not I should be glad for them for the cold weather but it seems hardly best to send them by express...

Page 2

...unless I write you to that effect.

I do not see that there will be any advantage in sending the leg of the Dinarnis to Dr. Kneeland from this

place and so I think I shall carry them home whence I hope to go tomorrow by the way of Nashua and Groton. I will send the boxes from Amherst without delay.

Though I thought that perhaps you were wise in declining the invitation to play the organ at Lawrence I have some doubts about it. To go there would give you a very desirable weekly relief from the pressures of your studies and I am inclined to think you need it, that in fact you are acting under rather too high pressure such as may burst some of the pipes. If it will not seriously interfere with your studies I should on the whole recommend you to accept of their offer. Your constitution of late shows a tendency to disease somewhat and you will have to be cautious "An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure."

Catherine roused me up very kindly at Lawrence; but still I suffer much and hardly know how to stand it this cold weather. I am quite unfit to be abroad lecturing. If I am carried safely through this evening I shall be very thankful and try to keep clear of such engagements for the future.

Ide and Co. Map Publishers near Old South east side of Washington St. upstairs agreed to have a map...

Page 3

...prepared for me the last of this week for \$5.00. I wish you could get it when ready and I will forward the money. Perhaps also I shall send for a copy of Mitchell's Atlas which costs \$12.00. If so I will write you soon.

In the meantime I remain most truly

Yours

Edward Hitchcock

Letter 195

[EH to EHJ, 13 February 1853, EMJH, Series 3-A, Box 8, Folder 20]

Amherst February 13th 1853

My dear Son,

I thank you for your long letter but shall be able to make only a short reply as I understand Mr. Burgess will go in the morning and it is now past 10 o'clock. I shall try to send the minerals you want by him but may not be able to put them up. I leave it year to your judgment whether to get the bird tracks: if they are decent specimens the price is not high.

I enclose two billets one to the Treasure of the State—perhaps I have not written the order right. The sum ought to be \$31—perhaps you had better enquire of Hon. Joseph Smith our senator as he knows all about it.

If you get this money I wish you would call on Mr. Dalloway at the Rooms of the Boston Natural History Society and purchase the following volumes of the proceedings of the American Scientific Association

for the College library.

1 st meeting Philadelphia	\$1.25
2 nd meeting Cambridge	\$1.50
3 rd meeting Charleston	\$1.25
4 th meeting New Haven	\$2.00
5 th meeting Cincinnati	\$1.25
6 th meeting Albany	\$2.00
Total	\$9.25

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You can call Mr. Whipple or not as you choose after reading the enclosed note.

I return Mr. Hale's sketch of the pedometer with thanks for his kindness. If he will allow you to take the instrument to Chamberlain and Wightman that you may ask them whether they can make one and what price I should be glad. I mean to put a sketch of the instrument into my Elementary Geology.

I should like to have you purchase one of the Talbotypes you mentioned.

We cannot say that there is a revival in College: but there have been at least three respectful conversions in the Sophomore class and there seems to be an unusual solemnity in our meetings: but what will be the result I cannot say.

If this snow had not come I think there could have been a fair prospect that our railroad would get into operation and I still have some hope that it may before you return.

Mr. Clark has charge of the zoological department and will probably be appointed professor as his present professorship occupies him only a part of the year.

I wish you would say to Mr. Hale that it would give us great pleasure to have the whole or part of his family with us next summer and stay just as long as it is pleasant. We will do what we can to make them comfortable and then perhaps they may find the chalybeate springs of Pelham and the Hygeian Hotel serviceable. [May refer to a sulfur spring discovered between Pelham and Prescott]

I advise you not to answer Prof. Baird's letter till you ascertain whether you cannot attach M. D. to your name.

In great haste

Yours affectionately

E. Hitchcock

Letter 196

[EH to EHJ, 15 January 1854, EMJH, Series 3-A, Box 8, Folder 20]

Amherst Jan 15th 1854

My dear Son,

The sandstone of Ct. Valley runs nearly northeast and southwest in general, and has a dip varying from 20 to 50° E. in the northern part and from 5 to 25° further south. The lower beds are thin and coarse mostly red sandstone—I mean those lying west of and beneath the trap. Those above the trap are slaty, often red, gray, and white, or black (shale) with a coarse breccia or conglomerate along the eastern side which of course is the newest. There is a great difference in the dip of the east and west sides but generally this mica slate on the west side, beneath the sandstone, has a greater easterly dip (45° to 80°)...

Page 2

...than the gneiss on the east, which dips westerly, running under the sandstone. The section across the sandstone at Turners Falls gave a thickness of over 14,000 feet of that rock and hence I inferred that there must be something more than they trias—probably the Permian also, and perhaps coal measures and even the old red. Again, it is not certain I think whether the trap was protruded through the sandstone after that rock was hardened, or flowed out over the sandstone when that rock was deposited. Certainly the Volcanic Girt on the back side of Tom and Holyoke was formed by flowing over the bottom of an estuary.

You will see that the thickness of our sandstone corresponds with the course of the Appalachians in Allegheny Mountains and I suppose they plications of that chain were probably the agency that lifted up the sandstone and probably produced cracks along the valley through which the trap was ejected.

You could have the Manikin but I have just convened my course of lectures, which go on a present only at the rate of two a week and are intended to last most of the term.

I am sorry to hear that Mary is unwell: yet I think she cannot be well so long as troubled with obstinate constipation. I am sorry I did not converse with her about it: for this has been one of my troubles: yet I have conquered it mainly by coarse bread, apple sauce and milk diet. Perhaps she would prefer...

Page 3

...this disease to the remedy. Physic I am satisfied only makes it more worse in the end

I have heard from the Nineveh specimens. Ten cases are in the Bible House at New York which I hope to get shortly.

The family are in usual health and there is little news except that Prof. Tyler is too unwell to attend College duties and Prof. Jewett is gone to bring his wife's mother so that we are very weak in instruction.

Most truly yours

E. Hitchcock

Letter 197

[EH to EHJ, 12 November 1854, EMJH, Series 3-A, Box 8, Folder 20]

Amherst November 12th 1854

My dear Son,

I have been struggling for several days with the symptoms of a fever brought on by my exertions and especially by the manner in which I have been treated by Allen the Mason in regard to plastering my new part. It has occurred to me as possible that a hand who can plaster might be found in East Hampton who would be willing and able to come over for about three days. I would give such an one 25 cents per day more than his usual charge if he could come within a day or two. I would also send after him and send him back or if he should choose to come with his own horse I would keep both...

Page 2

...horse and man without charge. Perhaps Mr. Williston might know where such a man might be found he has so much to do with masons.

I would not trouble you with the matter did not my present indisposition prevent my going abroad. I have waited and waited for Allen till it is of no use. The chimney is mostly built so that I can put fires into the rooms to be plastered and if I can only get the chimney topped out the rest might be done in rather cold weather. I am the more anxious on the subject because I suppose at present my insurance on my house is of no service and will not be till my improvements are finished.

I suppose you will be very busy till your school closes. But even after that I should be glad to have you attend this matter if you cannot before.

The rest of our family are in usual health and hope to see you and yours as early as you can come.

Sincerely yours

E. Hitchcock

Letter 198

[EH to EHJ, 4 October 1855, EMJH, Series 3-A, Box 8, Folder 20]

Amherst Oct. 4th 1855

My dear Son,

You have made another geological discovery. The specimen you sent is a genuine shell—preserved but

not petrified. I think it is a great Brachiopod allied to the Hippurite—two valved—one valve having been worn away and probably a good deal of the other. I am not sure of the genus. But it comes near the sphaerulites of Lamarck's family of Rudistae. That genus has not been found below the chalk! Truly we seem to be rising in the world. I do not think...

Page 2

...this specimen will be as decisive of the age of the rock as your Clathropteris. But if you could find a perfect specimen it might be. Keep your eyes wide open.

The Senior Class have decided to go a week from next Monday to Heath and put a new name upon Walnut Hill. They will be glad to have you go with any of your pupils.

Mary I believe concluded not to go to E. H. till after Cattle Show.

In haste truly yours

E. Hitchcock

P.S. Did I not give you a small work on the discovery of the microscope? If so I should like to look at it.

Letter 199

[EH to EHJ, 31 October 1855, EMJH, Series 3-A, Box 8, Folder 20]

Amherst October 31st 1855

My dear Son,

I confess that I had entirely forgotten your request as to a teacher. I put the business yesterday into Charles hands who has yet gone no lower than the Senior class. He could get a good man if he could have a privilege at the end of 12 weeks to substitute another man provided he cannot get leave of absence longer or he should feel...

Page 2

...that he could not be away the remainder of the time. I do not think there would be any difficulty in staying away the whole time unless the powers that be are more exact than the powers that were—which may be. We will continue our search for a teacher and let you know the result in a short time.

What a pity that one of those shells is destroyed. It is worth its weight in gold and a good deal more because money will not replace it.

I do not yet know Ma's decision respecting your girl but presume you can send her here.

I should like to know whether you are to have uncle Charles cow. One of mine has served me as yours has done i.e. grown so fat as to give up giving milk. I do not wish Charles cared if you do: but if you do

not take her I shall be glad to get her I think.

I think the fossil bones will turn out to be those of a reptile or a quadruped and not those of a bird. Prof. Wyman has sent them but is not decided in his opinion.

I have got a new track I think since you were here of an extraordinary character cost \$150. It was a huge...

Page 2

...biped with a tail! Hence I name it Gigandipus caudatus (the tailed biped giant). I have also bought all Mr. Field's other tracks for \$200. When do you think I get money.

The Ichnological rooms will soon be ready for specimens. I wish you were here to help get them in. But I must start about it before your vacation.

You can have more potatoes and apples too without cost.

Next week on Thursday I have engage to go to Newark New Jersey to give four lectures.

Truly yours

E. Hitchcock

[Along edge of page]

Had you not better look up the spodumene locality in Chesterfield.

Letter 200

[EH to EHJ, 7 December 1855, EMJH, Series 3-A, Box 8, Folder 20]

Amherst Nov. 7th 1855

My dear Son,

Your potholes or fire holes etc. are all Greek to me. I know nothing like them and I think they should be examined carefully for there must be a cause. Can they have once been occupied by large shells? A specimen of European Sphaerulite that I have is 8 or 10 inches long and 5 or 6 across. I wish I could come over to go to Mr. Tom: but I expect to start for Newark tomorrow and perhaps I shall not return for 8 or 10 days. If I live to come back I shall try to come and see you.

Ward of the Senior class has concluded to accept the...

Page 2

...place you offer in the seminary. I think he will do well.

I doubt whether Charles can get away that week before Thanksgiving as the examinations will probably happen Friday or Saturday. I think it probable you could have a horse and wagon for three days. But I think it uncertain whether you will not be prevented from going by snow.

I fear the footmarks will not be go into the Cabinet till quite late and most likely not till you have a chance to help.

I write in haste evening and presume the folks will amend something.

Truly yours,

E. Hitchcock

Letter 201

[EH to EHJ, 1 April 1856, EMJH, Series 3-A, Box 8, Folder 20]

Amherst April 1st 1856

My dear Son,

Your letter came to hand this evening. It I feel anxious about the boy. D. Clark of East Hampton home I saw this evening made a remark which accorded with my notions viz. that the air of the coast at this season was more apt to produce croup than that of the interior. I fear on that head and also lest the child should have too many good things offered him to cast among so many relations. Visiting is rather hazardous for babies I trust that while he is in this state you intermit somewhat his daily ablutions and do not expose him so much to the air. Dr. Smith says he has that delicate kind of skin which exposes him to the croup.

Prof. Clark is very sick with an...

Page 2

...obstruction or colic in the small intestines. Nothing has yet passed through and his father and mother are very anxious about him. He has spent several days in this state.

Mr. Snow is apparently a little more comfortable and may not live till you return.

The Senior's visit came off last night —pleasantly I believe but with no little fatigue to the family.

Very likely Mr. Knight might do well for Stratford. I suppose he will return this spring and you can probably see him if desired. I will name another man who perhaps might be induced to leave his present post – Rev. Clinton Clark of Bridgeport Ct. He is a first rate man and I think I shall mention him to Westfield people.

Truly yours

E. Hitchcock

[Different hand]

Wed morn

Dear Mary,

Father said he had been writing to Edward and if I wanted to write to you I could. I thought I must write and tell you that we had our Senior party on Monday evening— invited nearly a hundred but there were not so many here as a good many are sick. I made 15 loaves of cake all alone—myself and had very good success—also I made some delicate cake and it was very good. I wish several times you were here helping me . They all appeared to enjoy it very much—of course we feel pretty much used up – I felt so lonesome after you went away that I did not know what to do with myself. I am sorry to hear that Eddie has been sick —hope he will be well soon. Kiss him for me—give my love to all. Mother and the girls send love. Let me hear from you soon.

Your affectionate sister

Mary

[Probably from Mary Hitchcock, Edward Jr.'s sister, to Mary Judson Hitchcock, Edward Jr.'s wife. Edward, Jr. and Mary's son Edward would have been about 18 months at the time of this letter.]

Letter 202

[EH to EHJ, 26 April 1856, EMJH, Series 3-A, Box 8, Folder 20]

Amherst Tuesday April 28th 1856

My dear Son,

I will endeavour to send you the cow potatoes etc. on Friday next to meet you at the bridge at three o'clock P.M. There's no way to get the cow along but to tie her to the end of my new lumber wagon and pull her along. She will neither be driven nor led in any other way and perhaps not so. But we will try. If I could spare the horse all day Charles I suppose would come to East Hampton. But I fear I cannot as we are now pressed above measure with work.

Most truly yours

E. Hitchcock

Letter 203

[EH to EHJ, 10 November 1856, EMJH, Series 3-A, Box 8, Folder 20]

Amherst November 10th 1856

My dear Son,

A week from tomorrow I have engaged to start on my lecturing tour to Utica first. So that I cannot go to East Hampton next week. It is quite difficult to leave home this week I have so much to do in working out the footmarks and preparing lectures. But as Jane expects to return from Brattleboro on Thursday by the...

Page 2

...forenoon train that arrives at Northampton at 11 o'clock I have concluded to meet her on that day and hour and then go on to East Hampton. But as I must return the same day I think I had better go direct to Mr. Clark's though it is possible I may come to your house. If so I shall be there as early as twelve. I hope we can start before one—the afternoons are so short.

I am glad to hear that in most respects you are better. I hope your bad symptoms may gradually work off as the cold weather comes on. I don't think your dyspeptic symptoms are very alarming—only forms of the earliest and gentlest hits of the disease. But I hope your cough and pain in the side will disappear.

I waited for a private opportunity to send you my own and Dr. Hopkins sermons: but I will put them into the mail.

My health is unusually poor this fall—and great torpor of the digestive powers. But I have complained so long that I will not go into...

Page 3

...details.

Ma must settle this matter about your girl and will doubtless write to you.

In haste

Most truly yours

E Hitchcock

P.S. I have I hear nothing from the Nineveh specimens which ought to have arrived a fortnight ago. Nor can I succeed in raising any money to purchase Mr Field's collection of footmarks. I think I shall be wise to give them up.

Page 4

[Scrawled note on small paper fragment]

Ask Mary to send those things for Catherine by me on Thursday as Mrs. Bullard goes on Monday. If it storms Thursday I may try to come on Friday.

Letter 204

[EH to EHJ, 4 March 1858, EMJH, Series 3-A, Box 8, Folder 20]

Amherst March 4th 1858

My dear Son,

The enclosed letter will tell its own story. Whether you have a desire to change your place and locate in the southwest part of Pa. a little southwest of Pittsburgh on the Hempfield Railroad (I think not yet finished) I am unable to say and I shall not write to Dr. Hines till I hear from you. The latest Gazetteer (1855) says of the place "The town is distinguished for its literary institutions and the elegance of its parliamentary buildings among which are the Court House a number of well built churches, a female seminary, a bank, and the edifice of Washington College. The latter is a flourishing Institution founded in 1806. Three newspapers are published here. Pop. In 1850, 2,662." I suppose the College to...

Page 2

...be Presbyterian.

I have no doubt the College is in a flourishing and fine part of the state and if you wish to visit before deciding you can go to Wheeling and from there take the Hempfield Railroad (which was open a part of the remaining distance a year ago) and you would reach it rather easily – at an expense however probably not much short of \$50. I am quite unable to give you any advice till I know something of your feelings as to your present position.

Your views as to the claws of animals I think are correct.

Most truly yours

Edward Hitchcock

P.S. I do not gain much. I never felt my constitution so shattered to pieces.

Letter 205

[EH to EHJ, 23 May 1857, EMJH, Series 3-A, Box 8, Folder 20]

Amherst May 23^d 1857

Dear Son,

Charles wants to know when you will take his place in Vermont. I think perhaps you had better go if convenient the beginning of week after next. Send your letter letting him know to Proctorville care of D. Hager and let him inform you when you can meet Mr. Hager. Thus far the weather and roads have been

bad but by week after next...

Page 2

...I think you will find all pleasant. I have got completely upset by my jaunt last week—I never had so hard a time of it—and am still quite unwell. The worst symptom is an irregular action of the heart. I rode two days all day in rain and snow.

I have not found time to look at the comparative anatomy you sent. My hands are more than full though I can do but little. I hear nothing from Ivison and Phinney[*]—perhaps because I asked them the second time to settle with me as they should have done last January. They seem to be honest men but I have found them slack in the matter of copy right.

I am sorry for the accident to Edward 3^d: but a fellow of such active temperament will be sure to get into some sort—and many sorts of trouble. I hope the injury may not be lasting.

I shall hope to see you ere long—especially about the mountain.

Page 3

My geological lectures do not commence until nearly a fortnight so that I can say nothing about the matter at present.

Most truly yours

E. Hitchcock

[*Ivison and Phinney of NY published Anatomy and Physiology by Hitchcock and Hitchcock]

Letter 206

[EH to EHJ, 27 February 1859, EMJH, Series 3-A, Box 8, Folder 20]

Amherst Feb. 27th 1859

My dear Son,

I am sorry to hear of your troubles, but I am unable to help you as no good authorities on the subject of poison are within reach. If you have been poisoned I think it must have been the result of covering up the beans with collodion which compelled the absorbent to take up the phosphorus. That the son should be slow in healing is no...

Page 2

...new thing. I remember it well. I hope you may find that the case is not very serious.

The news from Bridgeport corresponds with what I warned you to be prepared for—I still think that you ought not to hope for much besides saving your house and your note. If you do that you should not complain.

I doubt whether Mr. Clark has yet got anything ready for me as he had to return the draft to be endorsed anew.

Ma is comfortable though I feel anxious about her. It is all a result of that old injury[*]. I gain some strength but that bad state of the lungs and throat and cough remain.

Let us hear from you often as we feel anxious to know how you are.

Affectionately yours

Edward Hitchcock

[In a different hand]

P.S. I am afraid that the Porcupine will turn out nothing but our common one a considerable stretched. I have been to see the man that killed him whose name is Ward. He lives in Leverett and killed...

Page 3

...this animal near his house as it was eating apples. How does this [????] with your statement that it came from Sunderland where it had been kept alive for some time? I wish that your account would prove the correct one. My deor (dear) has not arrived yet—and I am afraid that it will be long in coming. I just skinned a wharf rat and hear of a man at Sunderland Bridge that has a live prairie wolf in his possession wh. I hope will make tracks for Amherst bye and bye.

Aff. Chs Hitchcock

[Charles was teaching at Amherst College in 1859. "Old injury" might refer to a fall taken by Orra Hitchcock in June, 1855.]

Letter 207

[EH to EHJ, 11 July 1859, EMJH, Series 3-A, Box 8, Folder 20]

Amherst July 11th 1859

My dear Son,

As matters stand I see no way but you must omit sending the proof sheets here. But I regret it for having had a great deal of experience in proofreading I fear that you who I suppose have had little can hardly avoid a good many errors which we here might discover. Besides I should doubtless make corrections in

your style. It will greatly injure the book if it comes out with many blunders. This driving the first edition of such a book through the press at railroad speed is a bad business. I presume Ivison and Phinney may have good proofreaders but those...

Page 2

...who had charge of the last edition of my Elementary Geology made bad work of it and in many cases corrections which I made in the proofs were never made by the publisher and the book abounds with blunders which have injured it. Keep a lookout on this point and do not let any sheet be stereotyped till you have seen a second proof and are sure that the corrections have been made. I doubt not you can do the thing much better if you are in N. York.

I expect to start from for N. H. tomorrow and must be absent I presume as much as four days as New Hampshire is near the White Mountains. I dread the trip in the present state of my health but there seems to be no release.

I am surprised that you have heard nothing from Mr. Hager about the fossil whales. We went to see Mrs. Thompson and she promised to let the bones go if the Governor would so direct and she might be released from all responsibility respecting them. I wrote to the Governor offering to take responsibility and requested him to direct Mrs. Thompson to deliver them to Hager. But probably something has blocked the wheels. Our plan was to put the bones into your hands in season to secure them before the Springfield meeting where we hoped you would be able to exhibit the skeleton and give a short paper upon it. I hope you will be able to attend that meeting at any rate. I should think the publishers would be willing to hold back a little...

Page 3

...though doubtless glad to push the book through rapidly. Had the state printers done so with my Ichthyology they would have surely ruined the book.

I will endeavor to write a brief preface according to your wish. My Vermont report makes almost no progress so far as I am concerned. What little strength I have left goes to other things. I would give considerable to get sight of that first chapter which I wrote of the Anatomy. Perhaps you could send me a printed copy when you go to N. Y. I am lecturing and want the facts of which I took no copy.

Mary goes with us tomorrow. I preached all day yesterday.

Affectionately yours

Edward Hitchcock

Letter 208

[EH to EHJ, 1 August 1859, EMJH, Series 3-A, Box 8, Folder 20]

Amherst August 1, 1859

My dear Son,

I unfortunately forgot to say anything to you before you left concerning your communication to the Boston Recorder. I felt disposed to criticise it somewhat—I should not sign my name to the communication as I think the case does not require it. I have alternate it so as to suit myself and enclose it. Do with it as you like. I should be glad to have something appear on the subject and if you send this with the signature such as I have attached most persons will know who wrote it and yet...

Page 2

...it is not the formality of an actual signature.

We have letters from Cincinnati as late as Monday evening when everything continued to go well. A lock of the baby's hair has been received.

Truly yours

E. Hitchcock

[Charles Bigelow Storrs, second child of Catherine and Richard Storrs, was born in Cincinnati on August 23, 1859, just three weeks before this letter]

Letter 209

[EH to EHJ, 9 October 1859, EMJH, Series 3-A, Box 8, Folder 20]

Amherst October 9th 1859

My dear Son,

I intend to send John tomorrow with a load of apples and potatoes as many as Tobey will draw. John will tell you what the varieties are.

I have not replied to several of your letters because I have been so overwhelmed with labour as to be unable. Besides as to the frontispiece piece I thought it useless and did not even allude to the subject in a letter to Ivison and Phinney who are pressing me (urged in no doubt by Wells) to get the Geology to press at once. I feel so vexed with all their movements that I think it best for me...

Page 2

...to say nothing unless compelled to do it. I hope you will get along with them as well as you can and I had rather you would decide most questions and to send them to me. Under the pressure of all the things that come upon me I am getting nervous which I always know to be the precursor of sickness. The Vermont survey is the great incubus and when I can get it off I know not.

I thought you would have difficulty with the Index if you never attempted to make out one. I wish I had known of it when you were here. Perhaps I might have helped you a little. I would be rather brief noting only the leading points. I first put the subject under the several letters which are placed upon a large sheet of paper giving more space to some than to others. Then I copy into an Index form and place the subjects right under each letter.

In haste truly truly yours

E. Hitchcock

Letter 210

[EH to EHJ, 21 December 1859, EMJH, Series 3-A, Box 8, Folder 20]

Amherst December 21st 1859

My dear Son,

Your two letters have been received and the books came to hand this evening. I do not believe I should find time to look up errors. If I see any of importance soon I will send them on. The work is certainly got up in good style. The drawings are fine. I suppose you saw the puff of the work in the Springfield Republican. I am glad they are disposed to do justice to you as some compensation of their abuse of me. I think the book may take tolerably well if teachers do not think it too long.

We should be glad to visit you next Monday: but you know the difficulty of getting...

Page 2

...across the river. Then I know not how we can all come in unless some go by stage and moreover it is difficult for all of us to be away overnight. But we will come if we can and as many of us as can be spared.

Ma and I went to Newburyport last week and had a pleasant visit returning on Saturday. We came by way of Andover.

Mary's ankle is in a bad state. The doctor fears it may be permanently stiff. It has been neglected. We were not aware of the danger.

In haste

Most truly yours

Edward Hitchcock

P.S. Ought not the word By to be inserted on the top page before our names?

[The following Monday referred to would have been the day after Christmas.]

Letter 211

[EHJ to EH, 27 April 1860, EOH, Series 2-A, Box 3, Folder 19]

E. Hampton Mass. April 27 /60

My dear Father,

I am most heartily glad that you have got through with your Geology, and hope that you will soon will now take it easy as you certainly may as far as the anatomy is concerned.

Let me tell you first—if you please—what I have done. I have taken van der Hoevens Zoology, Sierold and Stannius Comp. Anatomy (both of which Agassiz approves) Carpenter's Comp. Physiology, and Wagner's Comp. Anatomy, and with them looked through the whole of the Comp. Anatomy of our book (and if I haven't worked hard then I don't know what hard work is) and sent the work on to S. V. P. There are not a dozen sentences in that whole portion now but what are based upon those books and where I could base it upon van der Hoeven or Sierold I have done it in preference to the others because they are more recent in authority. I know I am quick in all that I do too quick I suppose for inaccuracy generally but if I have ever done anything anywhere near to accurate in my life, that work is done so. I want to dreadfully to have your supervision of it now, but as you are too busy I wouldn't think of sending it to you. The book however I feel sure is better than it was...

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...and I thought what improvements I could make upon it had better be done and then when your leisure permits let it receive your supervision. The great hurry now is that the second edition is all sold and it must not be out of the market. All that I wanted of you at present was to get you to rewrite the classification of the animal kingdom rewritten as you proposed on Agassiz plan. But I have altered the most objectionable parts to it and it will stand until you can attend to the whole.

Now then you need not get up any haste to the supervision of the book. You need not give it another thought for a month. In fact I am unwilling to have it altered till we get Bennett's Physiology (He is the man who wrote art. Physiology in the British Encyclopedia) from Edinburgh for it is the latest book on that subject and it has but just been ordered. Carpenters animal physiology too I have got. Prof. Wyman speaks of it as Carpenter's best book! Ivison and Phinney I believe understand all this plan and you need not be at the trouble to write them on this subject for a long time.

When I have heard Bennett's physiology, then I think (with what additions I may add from it) I have done all to the book that I can. I meant to make it as perfect as I could before it went to press. But as I know some of my imperfections then and a great deal more of them now. I don't know at times but the book is as bad as Agassiz and Wyman make it out to be. I only regret that you and Ivison and Phinney must share the opprobrium.

Of course I have mentioned these feelings to no one not even my wife.

We shall be very happy to see any of you here for Charly next week.

Aff. your Son,

E. Hitchcock Jr.

Letter 212

[EHJ to EH, 5 May 1860, EOH, Series 2-A, Box 3, Folder 19]

E. Hampton Mass. May 5 /60

My dear Father

I have been up with my class on the mountain today and we got out a wagon load of Clathopteris and very good ones too. I don't know that we can learn any new facts from them, but they are rather better specimens on the whole than those found before. Some of them lie at right angles to the strata and are curled on the back of the midrib. I saw nothing that looked the edges of the frond but hope I have the tip of one. We also found them in place and broke them out of the fresh rock...

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We didn't get all that we might have got for I knew that we had enough for ourselves and I also thought that perhaps you or Charley would at some time come over and then you might learn a good deal about them in their natural bed that I couldn't.

Mr. Williston has had a bad calamity happen to him today with falling off his dam. He says it is a loss of \$50,000. He endures it better than than we all thought he could or would.

I hope that the book got along to you safely which I sent and paid for last Thursday. I & P wrote again since I sent it to say there is not a copy in the store. All they suggest is that you send along the corrections by portions and not wait for the whole book to be done as one man must do the whole of the work of correcting the stereotype plates.

When you send the book back by the stage driver, he may either have it at the Express office (where I have left directions) or he may give it to the baggage master on the Canal R. R.

We are pretty well. Carrie had some croup last night and I fear will have it tonight also.

Please give our best to all the good folks.

Aff. your Son,

E. Hitchcock Jr.

Letter 213

[EHJ to EH, 25 May 1860, EOH, Series 2-A, Box 3, Folder 19]

East Hampton Mass.

May 25 /60

My Dear father

My wife has made a suggestion to me within a few days which before I think on much less do anything about, I want to get your advice concerning it. It is that I go to Europe (England) in September or November and study with Sir Richard Owen from three to six months. Now, what I wish to have you tell me whether it is a thing I ought to consider. Will the advantage be enough to sanction the spending of \$700 (which you gave me). Might I to take it considering that I have a growing family to support and that perhaps my wife may not receive all she hopes to? Is it the best way that I can study zoology and comparative anatomy? Of course I could travel but a little as that is expensive: but as I always have considered Sir R. Owen the most eminent comp. anatomist in the world. I want to see him, hear him talk and learn from him.

If I go I want Charley to go with me or at least be with me a portion of the time while I should be in England. He of course would...

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...travel a good deal, though we could be together some. And could he not probably go as well next as any time, Providence permitting?

I suppose that winter would be the best time to study with Sir R. Owen. Do you know when he lectures and what arrangements (if any) he has for students. If you think it advisable even for me to go. I shall will want to know something about these things, even if I ask you to write Sir Richard himself.

It seems to me that such study would do me as much good now as ever: for I think the time will come when the teacher of Natural History will not be known in a seminary and when I leave here I expect to go to B. Port and farm it and then I never can certainly go away from home to study.

I think I shall hear night from Ivison and Phinney about the anatomy.

How does your Geology get on? I hope it will be out before the first of July. And I think I shall persuade my class to get it even though it will be late in the term.

Your specimen of fossil wood is down at my barn and my class will not go after more Clathropteris until a week from tomorrow.

How is Ma's foot now? And how did Mary get to Cincinnati?

We are all well

Aff. yours

E. Hitchcock Junior

I am still experimenting with the glue. I have tried several ways and today I think I succeeded the best. I dissolve the glue in hot water ("cooked it" is the term) and then added about 1/5 its bulk of fine scenic acid. I have given some to a furniture maker and paper box maker for trial. I can't make the vinegar work well; it hardens after it, though a little acetic acid will aid it: still the paper box maker thought I was not so good as that dissolved simply in water.

Letter 214

[EHJ to EH, 11 August 1860, EOH, Series 2-A, Box 3, Folder 19]

Bridgeport Ct. August 11 /60

My dear Father

I have watched the papers very closely this week to learn what has been done at commencement but have seen but few items. I got a scrap from Charly however which has set me quite on fire. If the Trustees have neglected to appoint Charly assistant Prof. and have appointed a Prof. of Hygiene either with or without your approval they have done most abominable things. The Faculty or the Faculty and Trustees have repeatedly done things to you which were very neglectful and disrespectful...

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...but I could forgive these because they didn't know any better: but now either they have determined to openly insult you, or else thought they could do what they chose and you would grin and bear it. I never felt so much out with all Amherst College as I do at this moment. I have too sometimes felt as if I would like to be connected with it in some way but now nothing under high heaven would induce me to accept any position there.

My present plans are to leave for Liverpool on the 1st or 5th of September next and probably in company with Mr. Knight. I have been obliged to do this in respect of Charly on hearing from Sir Richard Owen. But for good reasons (I hope) I believe that I must go early. I go with the expectation that Charley will follow me ere long.

I probably shall not go to Amherst till the last week in August, but as you may go away (or have gone already) I want to trouble you for letters to Owen and Edwards in particular and to as many others as you are willing to be troubled for me. For I return that I shall prize highly an introduction to anyone. And if you are not to be in Amherst again till I go there will you please to leave the best Clathopteris where I

can find them. I hope that I may see you before I go so as to talk about the Clathropteris etc.

I shall be very sorry if I go without seeing you first, but as...

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...things are I don't know how I can be otherwise. If I don't please give me some errands for me to do for you in London, Paris etc.

We are all enjoying ourselves very much and getting good from the salt air, water etc.

Was at N. York on Wed. I & P have just begun to print your Geology. The anatomy is in the linders hands.

All send best of love to you and wish that some of you would find it for your health and pleasure to come down here and visit a while. Can not some of you write and give me the details of affairs?

Aff. Your son

E. Hitchcock, Jr.

Letter 215

[EHJ to EH, 11 October 1860, EOH, Series 2-A, Box 3, Folder 19]

Paris October 11, 1860

My Dear Father

I am now back in Paris again and located here as I hope for a while. I have lodgings with Pixlee [Pixlee Judson, brother of Mary Judson Hitchcock] in Rue de l'oraize near the American Chapel and five minutes' walk from Napoleon's great Arch of Triumph. We spent as we expected two weeks in traveling to Geneva from there to Chamonix, and through the Tetroine Pass to Martigny from there to Lausanne on and then to Basel, Freiburg, Mannheim, Bonn, Cologne, and Brussels back to Paris. I was very sorry that I did not learn more accurately from your route so that I might know when I was seeing the same sights that you saw 10 years before. But I knew that you were at Chamonix and Mon Sauvient and Mer de Glace. Oh what a glorious things to see the Alps and all connected with them are! We had most beautiful weather in Switzerland and could see all that we had strength to see there thanks to a kind Providence. The first night that I was in Chamonix it was beautiful moonlight and I got up three different times in the night to look up at Mont Blanc and was well paid for it. I went partly across the Mer de Glace but not down it by the château. I did want to go up Millbank most terribly.

Prof. Pictof at Geneva I did not see as we made so poor calculations on time and money that I could not afford another day at Geneva. I asked him however to send to me at Paris if he had not received your book. He has not yet sent to me. Of course I can tell you nothing new or anything that will interest you of what I saw between Martigny and Bonn as you know it already much better than I do.

At Bonn I found Dr. Krantz a nice gentleman who talks English very nicely indeed. He lives a little out...

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...of the city in a very large house with quite a farm attached to it. In this house he has all his collections and his wife and his wife's sister are good helpmeets to him. That day that I was there he was putting up a collection of crinoids from Agassiz. This collection of fossils I think is quite superior. It certainly is much better than his collection of minerals. And I do hope that you will be able to raise the money and get the largest collection of them that he can furnish you for they will be much better I think than anything you now have at Amherst. He did not have any collection selected by itself, but they are all in drawers and I presume I drew out 100 drawers and looked at nearly all that he had. There was one specimen he had which I should have bought for you if it was not probably sold to Agassiz. It was a slab containing a row of chirotherium tracks about 7 feet long. It is not absolutely engaged to Agassiz but Dr. Krantz cannot let anyone else have it till Agassiz writes to him about it. The tracks were in relief and almost the size of the ones that you now have in college. He only asked about \$20 for the slab. He will however give you a cast for about \$6. He also has in stone a single track larger than these others which is for sale. I think the price for that is about \$8. He is ready to take a large part of all my spodumene and I am to set my own price to it. Accordingly I think the best may very well be to wait (as I left it in E. Hampton) till next spring, and if I am spared to go home send them in the box which you send to Dr. Krantz.

As I said I am located in Paris while D. V. But if followed my strong wishes I would identify the next steamer for America. The way of living here is awful. All my habits of life are turned around exactly contrary and I have got to learn entirely new ways of doing everything. First of all there is no water here that can be drunk. I am actually at the moment suffering from water to drink. For the little I have drunk has disordered my bowels so much that now I darest not quench my thirst ever. The wine isn't fit to drink and it don't quench thirst either. Then again it is not the way to have anything here to eat in the morning till 10 or 11 o'clock. When we go to a restaurant before 8:30 we always have to wait till they can sit at the rises. Breakfast in Paris is at 12 o'clock and dinner from 5 onwards. Then I can't learn the food when it is got. If we call for beefsteak it is some slices of potato soaked with grease laying in hot oil that is rendered nauseous by some vegetable and lemon juice and on top of all of this lies what would be beefsteak if it were not spoiled by cooking and so it goes and I am sick of it from want of to eat and drink. Today has been a wretched gloomy rainy day and it has had a peculiar aspect of melancholy so that I no longer wonder why I have heard people speak of the days when Frenchmen commit suicide.

Yesterday I went to see Milne Edwards and found him slightly unwell. He received me very kindly and told me that he had received your Ichnology. I find that summer is the season to study in the Garden of Plants and I see that I have but little to learn in Paris except what I can get from looking in the collections at the Garden on the days attended for visit. I saved the whale and porpoise skeletons and it is very pleasing to me to see how near correct I was in my ideas of the Vermont whale. And when you got the bones of a whale at Amherst I will agree to mount him for you. I saw a fine collection of skeletons at the University in Paris, the most I had then ever seen in my life. Please tell Ma that I saw the Chateau Poppelsdorf, and I presume it looks pretty much as it did ten years ago except that the gypsum has got more dust on it now than it had then. I learned that it was originally the bathing room of the Prince Poppelsdorf.

How much more the people over here attend to the enthusiasm of flowers than we do. In this thing I am sure we might learn a good lesson. And this leads me to think that you are just about now closing up

your Cattle Show and Fair. Oh how I should like to have been there! For I can assure you that I have been homesick enough since I have been here and am by no means settled yet. If I had have thought for a moment that I was going to suffer as much as I have from homesickness and discomfort, no earthly inducement would have started me away from home.

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I may I Jane though this that it is impossible for me to find just what she wanted me to get in the shape of jewelry and I shall have to leave go to the last that I can. I am sorry for my judgment is poor very poor in such matters. The style of jewelry which is now rather passing by is that manufactured from aluminum. The tortoiseshell is now quite the rage and if I only I had \$50 I could do very well for all the good women folks at home.

Expenses of living have greatly increased here within two or three years. So everybody tells me. This all important item will shorten my stay certainly in Paris and probably my whole journey. However I have already seen a great deal which is I hope of some profit to me and I even should like to see some again. I suppose that living is more expensive in London than here.

Pixlee has been a great service to me. I fact I do not know how I should here get along without him though—can do considerably signs and gestures. But almost everywhere I can find somebody who understands English a little.

I advise Charley to catch all the French conversation he can get hold of, for that will help him a great deal more than a textbook knowledge of French. A little Dutch will be of service on the Rhine, but English, French and Gold coin will go everywhere that I have been as yet.

I think now that I shall D. V. stay here till about Nov. 7th when I shall hope to go to London. I hope I may hear from some of you here by that time. If so please direct care of M. Berry and Co. 26 Rue Bengese. In London I hope to be in the care of George Peabody.

And now may a good God spare us all to meet again in the world! But better than that may we all be ready contentedly to obey his will in reference to us.

My heartiest love to all

Aff. your Son,

E. Hitchcock Jr.

Letter 216

[EHJ to EH, 10 November 1860, EOH, Series 2-A, Box 3, Folder 19]

London England November 10 /60

My dear Father

I am as you see at last upon good English soil and in the hands of Prof. (not Sir) Owen where I have wanted to be for a good while. I got here Thursday evening after enduring a real sick part of a day on the channel. The sailors called the passage a remarkably smooth one, but as I had a hard cold I kept below and so was made sick. However by the time we landed I felt pretty well except very weak. We crossed from Dieppe to N. Haven.

I found Prof. Owen yesterday and oh how cordial his greeting to me was! It really did affect me not a little because it was so different from anything that I had met with since I left home and quite unexpected also. One of the first things which he did entirely his own proposal was to recommend me to good and cheap lodgings which I engaged as soon as I saw them. I am living in Oakley Place near Regent's Park with Mr. Dinkel, who is Prof. Owen's artist, and who is the artist of Agassiz great work on fossil fishes. My room is small on the fourth story, but it overlooks everything near it, and if the smoke would ever clear away I should have a nice view of London looking Southerly. For lodgings and breakfast I pay 12 shillings the week.

Prof. Owen is only going to give a short course of lectures this winter and if Providence favors me shall hope to hear them all. They are all upon "the classification and the geographical distribution of the Mammalia."

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He has given me a free ticket to them, and also says I may visit the British Museum every day in the week which I can do simply by using his name at the door. He is also giving me a letter to Prof. Quekett [John Thomas Quekett, microscopist and histologist] which I presume will give me similar facilities to the Hunterian Museum. (Prof. Owen you know now has charge of the British Museum, its comparative anatomy I mean, and Prof. Quekett is his successor in the Hunterian).

Prof. Owen yesterday paid the highest compliment to you on account of the Ichnology and the book shows that he has used it as well as looked into it. He said that he valued the book both as showing the intellectual character of our country and also in the manner in which it was got up: which would not be exceeded in England or France. In introducing me to Lord Enniskillen today he spoke of you as the Ichnologist. All these compliments were entirely uncalled for by me, and volunteered by him, and you know him well enough to know that he is not a man of soft soap, and what object could he have either in it? What good will soft soap ever do to him? But the bones took him down entirely. He was fairly pleased with them. He looked quite carefully at them and wanted them left with him for further examination. He says without doubt they are reptilian, the solid texture of them decides this, but at the same time they are hollow like birds bones. And finally he said "what would Darwin say if we should actually find a reptile developing into a bird?"

The teeth of the Ichthyodonolite he spoke of with a good deal of interest but not so much enthusiasm as about the bones. The insect too he says you are right about, and he thinks even in that specimen he sees one or two of the legs. Milne Edwards [Henri Milne-Edwards, French zoologist] in Paris had said he thought you were right and he could make out the three segments of the body.

Your letter reach me in Paris just before I left. It did me good to know that you are all alive and well at the time it was written. I suppose I saw the casts of that Megatherium of which you spoke in Paris. It is a very imperfect thing indeed. Of the head there is but a very small portion of the lower part of the skull. The vertebrae are also mostly missing as well as the ribs. The pelvis is more perfect and so are the larger portions of the extremities. Prof. Owen thought it doubtful whether there were any casts of that left, but would look into the matter. He thinks however that there is a cast of another head that might be got for you. But what a splendid perfect skeleton that is what stands in the British Museum!

I thank you kindly for your advice that I must not hurry home and leave many things which I shall regret afterwards that I had not seen. I will stick to it as close as I can, but even now I must say that I am tired of seeing many of the common objects of vision by wellness. Prof. Owen gives his last lecture here on December 17th, and I reckon by the 25th I shall feel like quitting this city of fog and smoke and crooked and short streets. I hope however that money will hold out so that I can certainly go up into Scotland as far as Edinburgh, though of course it is an unfavorable time of year for doing it. I must also just to see a few other scenes in England besides London. I have an invitation to visit Sheffield from the wife of the mayor of that city. I met her on Lake Geneva. Her acquaintance is one of the pleasantest I have made since I left home though it was a just a few hours duration.

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There is only one thing about Prof. Owen I didn't like and that was that he asked me out to dinner there tomorrow (Sunday) and I like myself less because I didn't have the moral courage to decline the invitation. I presented your letter to Mr. Peabody and he invited me to dine with him at the "Star and Garter" Richmond on Monday with a few other Americans.

Tell Charley to try and get company if he travels here next year, and especially so if he stops long in any of one place. I find a good many hours when the loneliness is very trying to me. Tell him also that a little French at his tongues and on some one of his party will save a good deal of gold and trouble generally. Please tell Ma great many things about her European trip which you both have told me but had gone out of my mind are continually suggested by the objects which I am continually seeing.

My thoughts revert homeward all the time that am not actually engage with the objects. And oh if a kind Providence only spares all air lives till I get home again it seems to me that I shall know what it is to feel grateful, and more so than for any other earthly blessings I have ever received. May God so order it is my humble and constant prayer.

Some anxiety is now felt for the Prince of Wales as he has been out 17 days, and nothing has been heard from him either of the ships.

Mond. Morn Nov. 12

I took dinner with Prof. Owen yesterday and if it had not been on Sunday everything would have been delightful. He lives in a cottage in Richmond Park given him for life by the Queen. He is very kind to me and if you have occasion to write to him please thank him for his attention to me. He is very much taken with the bones.

Tonight I hope to dine with Mr. Peabody.

My hardest love to all at home

Aff. your son

E. Hitchcock Jr.

Please direct to me here care of Mr. Geo. Peabody. Send nothing to reach me later than Dec. 25th. E. H. Jr.

[Written across the top of page 1; this may be written by Jane or Emily to brother Charles]

Dear Ch. -

We thot you would like to read this letter wh. just came, so here it is; also one wh. came to you from the office tonight – Did you receive one from Mrs. Phelps remailed wh. we sent a day or two since? It is Thanksgiving evening and we are going to spend it at Mr. Sweetser's. I wonder what you are doing. I am much obliged for the last letter and shall answer it soon. We have had a quiet day here. Cook preached on politics—no company—all send love –

Jennie [?] or Emily [?]

Letter 217

[EHJ to EH, 24 November 1860, EOH, Series 2-A, Box 3, Folder 19]

London Nov. 24 /60
11 Oakley Sq., Regents Park.

Sat. Eve.

My Dear Father

I write to you at this time to report progress. That is I am nicely located here and learning considerable I hope every day. All the men to whom you gave me letters have treated me with the utmost cordiality and attention that solely on account of the respect in which you are held over here.

Prof. Owen is still very kind to me and everything that I want. I go to him as little as I can possibly help, since he has so much work on his hands. He secured me a ticket to the reading room of the British Museum, which I spend an hour in every morning. It is a beautiful room 140 feet in diameter and 106 high. It is circular and covered with a dome. There are 80,000 volumes any one of which I can read, being furnished with a convenient table and a nice chair. And I am not obliged to lose the book if I don't get it first every morning: for if I only signify my wish it will be retained for me as long as I wish to use it. I find many of your books are in the library. I have not yet been into all the rooms in the British Museum so vast is it in extent. And all the Nineveh Galleries and the Reading Room have been added since you were here.

The Hunterian Museum too has been put in a new room within 3 years past. It is about as perfect a room as I can conceive of for such a purpose.

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To both of these museums—through Prof. Owen—I have complete access every day in the week, although they are open to the public but 3 days. How different from my advantages in Paris!

Upon the presentation of your letter to Sir Roderick Murchison, he at once invited me to dine with the Geological Society Club on the evening of their meeting. A very interesting paper was read upon the geology of Bolivia by David Foiles, a brother of Sir Edward.

The Museum of Economic Geology Soc. is a place to which I go three times a week and hear Prof. Huxley lecture. He is considered here next to Prof. Owen. I always spend some time in looking around the museum as I go to the lecture. Prof. Ramsey I presume I could be introduced to if I wished but I think I won't take his time. He is not well.

I took lunch with Sir Charles and Lady Lyell on Thursday. She is as interesting as ever she was and he is just as thoughtful and hard-working. He was delighted to hear about the bones from the sandstone. The Clethopteris pleased him and Lady Lyell both very much. I gave him the book on Surface Geology.

About casts of fossils I have been enquiring and have found out some but hope to find out more yet. Strange as it may be the Curators in the British Museum are not allowed to exchange at all, although they have hundreds of specimens which ought to be exchanged. But there is a Mr. Wright opposite the museum who deals in minerals and fossils and he has the right to make casts and of him they can be got. But it is not the best way to buy them of him for cash, but to do it by exchange, since there are many American things which he wants that you can get for little money in America and then you can set your own price upon them. For instance Trilobites, and I advise Charley (or yourself) at once to engage \$25 worth of these fossils, and I think you may then sell them (in exchange I mean) to him for \$50. My Spodumene and Triplite too he wants. And if a kind Providence permits me to get home safely, I shall make a proposal to you to furnish me with some money to dig more Spodumene with, and I'll agree (if successful) to furnish you with minerals that will enable you to receive from him double the value of what you furnish me. Another thing is Pennsylvania coal plants, for actually there are but two or three

specimens of American coal plants in the British Museum. Also some of the Brandon fruits will go well. Ich nolites and Sunderland fishes also.

Now I will get what information I can about his specimens and prices before I leave so that when Charley comes next year he can pick out what you will want much better. I think to your wishes than I can. And I will thus early so that he or you may be getting hold of some of these things that I have mentioned if you think, lest to adopt my suggestions. I think I have some old scholars who can get me local plants. I want also when I get home to get hold of some of those Ackworth beryls that were in Mr. Marsh collection of Greenfield. Do you know where the balance of them went to?

In one of my wife's last letters she said you advised me not to be so homesick as to hurry home and then afterwards regret having omitted some things that I did not see. I thank you kindly for the advice and will follow it though I wish I was at home this minute. When Prof. Owen finishes his lectures then I shall have been in London almost 6 weeks and by that time I shall...

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Have got all the good from the cabinets that I can: that is I mean of my general course of study: if I had some special object of investigation it would be different. By that time too—for I have not yet—I shall have seen most of the common objects of interest to a stranger in London, and if this is true I think I ought not to stay here any longer.

Then I mean (D. V.) [God willing] to spend a day in Cambridge, a day in Manchester, one in Sheffield and perhaps in Chester and go to Liverpool. There I hope to have my trunk and go on to Edinburgh, and perhaps go up to Perth. Afterwards I shall hope to come back to Liverpool and start for "home sweet home." And oh do pray that it may seem best to a good God that I shall see that place again, and find all my dear friends therein. I felt a few months ago well and sound. But above all pray that I may be ready to meet God's will whatever it be.

I went to find John White, Mrs. Rigley's Father, but the old man had gone before me. He died in August last. I doubt but if she knows of it yet. At least her brother had not heard from her since she left 10 years ago.

I left a letter for Dr. Lankester [Dr. Edwin Lankester, surgeon and naturalist] at his house last week but he was not in. I shall call next week again.

George Hitchcock is very feeble and off in the country and will not probably be in the city again for three months.

Prof. Owen has given me a ticket to the Society of arts of which Prince Albert is President. I hope to see him there. Prof. Owen desired to be remembered to you when I wrote you again.

Please give my hardest love to Ma and the kids and say that though much is very pleasant, yet it is hard to think that all dearest earthly friends are 3000 miles away from you. I meant to have written at least

once to all the family, but fear I shall not be able to do it. I wrote Charly last week. This is the 31st letter I have written since I left home.

Now may our Heavenly Father keep you safe through the cold winter which is by this time on you and show you much regard.

Most aff. your Son,

E. Hitchcock Jr.

[Across top of front page]

The folks call it bitter cold. But I have not seen a speck of ice yet. It is very cold and damp weather. Please tell Ma that I have not been to Madame Tissauds yet. I have attended only so far to the special objects for which I came. "Business before pleasure." I did walk around Westminster Abbey last Thursday and as Providence would have it I got a fine fragment of the Chapel of Henry VIII that had just been broken off by some workmen. It is really a valuable piece.

Letter 218

[EHJ to EH, 29 November 1860, EOH, Series 2-A, Box 3, Folder 19]

London Nov. 29 /60

Dear father

This morning at the Hunterian Museum I met Prof. Quekett and he told me he had gotten a letter from Ephraim Brown and asked me if I knew him. I told him I did not but as he read me the letter I saw what was intended by it that is he was anxious to get a skeleton of the Megatherium for Amherst College.

When I first came here I made inquiries of Prof. Owen about the skeleton (or rather parts of it) as you requested me to and he said he would see about it. As however he has said nothing to me about it and I saw that he would do nothing unless I pressed him to do it which I was reluctant to do early this week I spoke to a mineral dealer here on the subject and he said he would look into the matter. However Prof. Quekett's conversation this morning seals the matter all right.

In the Hunterian Museum is a complete skeleton of the Megatherium (that is the missing parts have been restored by Prof. Owen) nicely mounted exhibiting the skeleton admirably. There is also a cast of the same in the British Museum, and they are the best specimens of a fossil gigantic animal I ever saw not excepting Dr. Warner's mastodon. Now Prof. Quekett says the original cast of the Pelvis hind legs and tail which were all that the Hunterian owned previous to the restoration by...

...Prof. Owen are in their drawers and he thinks they had better be sold where they can do some good. Moreover he says that the moulds of the remaining parts are in the hands of the British Museum and he can borrow them and thus easily make a complete skeleton of the animal. He appears quite anxious that you should have a cast of this animal and thinks the whole cost will be about 50 pounds or \$250. Now in looking over your letter to me and then imagining by Mr. Brown's letter that he wants the College to have the skeleton I am almost decided on my own responsibility to engage it for you at that price. I shall think of the matter one night, and if I don't change my mind I shall tell the professor that I'll take it. I know that I may be too quick as you know I often am but when I think what an ornament it would be to old Amherst and so reasonable as it is I feel the spirit in me to run the risk. Of course it would be unique in America for even Agassiz has not got one.

If I engage it now I think there is no doubt but that if God spares me to get home safely I could get it mounted nicely in your green cabinet before next commencement and oh what a splendid thing it would be there!

If they would only allow a mould to be made of the Glyptodon I would also run the risk of buying a cast of that for you. But that is so fragile I don't blame them but they won't. But a sugar hogshead with ends knocked out looks at a little distance very much like it.

The Megatherium stands on a platform about 12 feet x 5 and is 10 feet high; but the beauty of it is that it is complete.

The other casts that I may be able to get I will endeavor to find out about before I come home.

But you cannot make exchanges pay for the skeleton, it must be in cash since it is the Hunterian Museum. Here at the British I think if you should write Sir Roderick Murchison (a trustee) you could easily exchange for Tracks at your own price.

Another thing will interest you and I suppose it would your Library Committee also. Henry Stevens told me on Monday that he had bought the entire library of Humboldt, and it will be on exhibition in his house in 10 days for sale. Of course the British Museum and the Astin Library will come in for their first pick but there then could be a chance for Amherst College. If you or Prof. Tyler want to make any inquiries about it Dr. Coggs well of Aston Library N. York will be able to give you any information you may wish about it.

I am painfully aware that today is the a good old New England Thanksgiving, and that at this hour (4 o'clock) you are just going to Church. Oh how my heart does go over these thousands of miles between us! I cannot think of it any longer!

I still think that by the time Prof. Owen's lectures are finished, I cannot stay in London longer with profit equal to the privation and expense that it is. The darkness and rain are very depressing though I have to visit so much that some of tedium of it is taken away. In fact sometimes I feel that it is more than I can do to attend to all the dinners and subsequent calls that follow letters of introduction.

If I go from here to Cambridge, Sheffield, Chester, Manchester and then up to Edinburgh and after that to Perth and perhaps even to Galway and then back to Liverpool I think I shall "do" England and Scotland much better than I "did" Switzerland and Germany.

And now with a cheerful trust that God in his goodness will if lest bring us together again in this world, and with the strongest of affectionate remembrance to all of you I subscribe my Thanksgiving love.

Aff. your Son,

E. Hitchcock Jr.

[Page 1 written upside down at the top]

There is this fact about the Megatherium which we ought to keep in mind and this is that there is no other specimen that can be bought and that in all probability it never can be bought cheaper than now as some parts of it are lying idle and professor Quekett means to dispose of them.

[Written upside down on the back page]

Friday afternoon I have just seen Prof. Quekett and tell him that I want the parts of the Megatherium in the College of Surgeons. To complete the skeleton I shall have to get the moulds in the hands of the British Museum and as Sir Roderick is a trustee I shall hope to see him tomorrow about the matter.

I am in for it now and shall hope to have the casts all done before I leave. But as I cannot pay for them at of course I can't ask to have them sent to America before either you or somebody else sends the money. But I hope that I shall be able to see them ready for transport before I go. I hope I have not done wrong in my decision and more than all that I hope you will take them off my hands. I saw Prof. Owen and he strongly advised me to make the purchase at once. No one here knows anything about the casts sent Dr. Warren.

[Written upside down on the back page]

If you have anything special to say unlettered directed to me at Liverpool mail to and talk on the on Boston before 14 December will probably reach me and that's the end okay

Letter 219

[EHJ to EH, 2 March 1861, EOH, Series 2-A, Box 3, Folder 19]

E. Hampton Mass.
March 2 /61

My Dear Father

We are now all safely back here again and I trust very thankful for it to the kind Providence who has

spared our lives. Our house is in excellent order. Nothing has happened to it. The barn has suffered a little from the great weight of snow upon it. But we can't find our silver spoons high or low. They were put up in a box and I certainly meant to put them in a safe place but where that place is I can't tell.

No hired girl has turned up for us yet, but...

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...we trust that one will before long.

I thank you for the offer of apples and potatoes and mean bye and bye to go over and see you and get some, but I can't just at present.

I thank you too for your encouragement to me to lecture, and the loan of the drawings. They will be home in ample time for me as I can't go till April.

Whenever you find time to write Prof. Owen and Dr. Dunn please enclose them to me and I will add a half sheet and send them along. You can for all me do it at your leisure

I have brought along with me the photographs which were left for you at Iverson and Phinneys.

I and P have rendered me their account. As it stood Jan. 1st they owed me \$11.35 and had it not been that they charged me for the recasting of all the improvements of the last edition my due would have been nearly \$150. But I shall never have any more words with them about the Anatomy.

I hope you have received your indebtedness from the Geology before this time from them.

Is it too hard going for some of you to come over here? Can't you come and stay over one or two nights? It would be very pleasant to us if you would.

Love to all the folks

Aff. Your Son

E. Hitchcock Jr.

Page 3

I don't feel at all worried about Prof. Quekett's not writing to us. They are such awfully slow moving folks over there (and he has got rheumatism badly) that if we get a word from him before April I shall be surprised though I presume he might have got a letter to us in January.

Iverson and Phinney have just written me asking if I have anything new to add by way of recommendations etc. of the anatomy. I know of none and if you do you would be very kind if you would either drop a line to them or me.

Letter 220

[EHJ to EH, 25 May 1861, EOH, Series 2-A, Box 3, Folder 19]

E. Hampton Mass.

May 25 /61

My Dear father

So our birthdays by a kind Providence have once more come around. I have just reached the average limit of human life (33) while you have more than doubled it (68 I believe).

I wonder if I ever shall live as long as you have? If I do I shall try and live as usefully but of course I shall not live so eminently and in fact from seeing what you have gone through I wouldn't wish the honor for the present pay that it brings. I have responsibility enough now to answer and be sorry for, and so desire no more. May I only ever keep humble and faithfully at work!

Page 2

Simply for the pleasure of living. I wouldn't asked to live as long as you have: but to be obedient to the will of God and for my familys sake I would not now "rather choose death than life."

I want to ask you if you believe my religious faith is the right one. It is just this.

I feel implicit confidence in God, by daily and sometimes hourly prayer—that he will bless and keep me and at last save me. I feel—and I have for years—perfectly confident that God will save me in a better world simply because he says he will those who trust wholly in him, and though I continually do wrong he will help me, if I only by constant prayer ask for help.

I have based all this simply on the general tenor of the bible and not on particulars of life, or anybody's theory. Is it at all right?

I am waiting to hear if you do anything about the wedding anniversary. Mrs. Judson is now with us and will stay till next Friday. Pixlee too is here.

I am often quite in the dark about the minerals I am describing from the Vermont report. I can only give the general description of the minerals and not the peculiarities of the Vermont varieties.

So Charley has got his appointment as state geologist. He has succeeded better than I feared he would when he left—I am heartily glad of it.

Dr. Barker thanks you very much for his note. It is more than he calculated for.

Page 3

I gave the list of names that you sent from the house on Nonotuck to the proprietor. When he decides which one to take he wants to say that you gave the name. I told him that I presume you could have no

objection.

Did you notice Grey's Anatomy in my library when you were here last week. If so I think you will announce that as a reference book on your catalogue in preference to Wilson's. The ants are as much superior to Wilson's as Wilson's are to Paxton's.

I am doing a little on the deer's skeleton. I think I shall finish it in 10 days. If I had a few better tools I should like to mount skeletons for about half the time. There is something new to learn about each one that I get.

My little Charley is not very well. He kept us awake nearly half last night.

I am satisfied from Owen's Odontography that the teeth are nothing but horse teeth though I have not been able to find them in a recent specimen.

What a complete book that Odontography is!

I find a few typographical errors in your Geology which I mark as I go along.

Love to all the folks

Aff. Your Son

E. Hitchcock Jr.

Letter 221

[EH to EHJ, 6 June 1861, EMJH, Series 3-A, Box 8, Folder 20]

Amherst June 21st 1861

My dear Son,

Both your letters are before me and I will reply to as many items as I can this morning.

I'm trying to get a D. D. of L. L. D for Mr. Dunns but have not much hope of success because I tried and failed last year.

Prof. Shepard who is pleased with your minerals and will acknowledge their receipt will start for Europe in a short time and I doubt not will take any letters etc. as we may want to send.

Charles directed us to send his letters to Machias: but I think unless you write it once you had better direct to Lubec where he will go before long.

It is certainly important that you go Montpelier and I...

Page 2

...shall bear your expenses. I have written to Hager about it and he says that Mr. Camp Sergeant at Angus has the keys to the room. I want to send by you a box of fossils when you go and must bring them over before you go. By the way Hager has at last got a drawing of the whale for our Report which will come in as an Appendix to the scientific part. Can you not say something more about the animal. We want you also to look at some deer's horns at Montpelier found in muck. Have you written anything about those bones from the Chittenden cave?

If Ma and I go to Rochester next week I think I shall leave the proof to Hager as he is familiar with the details. I expect blunders.

I should like to take the four copies of my Geology. Have you paid for them? If so I will hand you the amount.

Affectionately yours

E. Hitchcock

P. S. The names of the ferns you sent says Professor Tuckerman is *Cystopteris fragilis* (*Aspidium tenue*).

Letter 222

[EHJ to EH, 11 July 1861, EOH, Series 2-A, Box 3, Folder 19]

Friday, July 11

My Dear Father

Mr. Colton very kindly gave me a letter before I got to bed last night. Of course I was sorry to be obliged to come home on Wednesday night and had I suspected that there would have been any want of me before I left I could easily have made arrangements to stay. But I thought my duty to my scholars was paramount to the pleasure of all commencement exercises.

Since thinking of the matter and talking to Mr. Clark I feel more as if I should like the appointment if made. I am here will be a change here before long I am sure and I can't think of anything else that would suit me better. But I terribly shrink from assuming a professorship anywhere because there is so much more involved in it than in a mere teacher's place.

Page 2

Very much of the professorship proposed I think I should like. It does not imply much intellectual or literary labor but more detail and practical effort and that not of an intricate kind. For some of this work perhaps I am in some degree adapted. I like very much the idea of having a kind of oversight upon matters pertaining to the health of the students: for I have thought of this matter a good deal though

have never had a chance to do but a little and that on my own book.

Of course too you must know that I would like all the opportunities such a position would give me to study and talk upon the different branches of anatomy and physiology.

The practical gymnastics seemed to trouble Dr. Allen the most. I presume however if I had have summoned the brass to say that I could do well enough "à la Prof. Clark" (Dr. Allen) would have been strongly impressed with my fitness for the place than he was.

But I cannot do or even think in that way: and if I even speak with great confidence of anything that I can do that very confidence will confuse and disturb me more than anything else that I can do. And I do say (though only to you) that in my heart I really have had little fear that I could not ["not" has been added in pencil] get along with the gymnastics provided I might take my own way of doing things and not be obliged to do for the satisfaction of Dr. Stearns or anybody else as Dr. Hooker or any other gymnast does.

The idea of breaking up here pains me much and when I see my wife it may be more of a thing than I now think it is. And the thought of being a public man in the same place where I was so long and did all my wicked tricks is not at all pleasant. But the society and influence of my Father and Mother and the men of the faculty as well as the treasures of the Cabinets and Libraries hold out strong inducements even for a breaking up.

Page 3

However as you say I presume the Trustees have got on the track of another man. If so I presume they will be guided in the selection by a power higher power than any of earth. I shall make no efforts of my own to secure the place, not in the least. For I am well aware of my deficiencies in some things, and am sure that a man of better attainments than mine can readily be procured. I only wish that the course should be taken by me which is in the line of right and duty. I am willing to leave the rest to a higher power than mine.

My present position is comfortable so far as work is concerned and my associates are those to whom I am strongly attached for personal as well as other reasons. Besides this I trust I am exerting a small influence for good upon some of the students whom I attempt to instruct.

I hope this thing may not give you undue trouble, for you have enough without it.

In fine I can possibly say that I am of course pleased that I have been thought worthy of a consideration for the place: but should the Trustees make any other selection than me I shall feel no disappointment in the matter, for I know that a good God has directed me before in similar situations and I believe he will now offer after I have done what my conscience told me was right.

My wife is expected tonight.

Aff. your Son,

E. Hitchcock Jr.

Letter 223

[EH to EHJ, 11 July 1861, EMJH, Series 3-A, Box 8, Folder 20]

Amherst July 11th 1861

My dear Son,

I am very sorry that you did not stay here last night. Early this morning Dr. Allen called to see you and not finding you the whole matter of the professorship has been put into the hands of a committee (the President and Drs. Alden and Allen) not as I understand it with the power to appoint but to have correspondence with you and probably to look after some other candidates.

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I say probably for when I offered to send for you this morning the committee would not allow me to do it and I can imagine no other reason than that they wish to look elsewhere. Had you been here I think half an hour talk with the Trustees would have led them to appoint you. Now I hardly know what course the matter will take. I state the worst of the case that you may not be disappointed if you are not offered the place.

No degree was conferred upon Mr. Dunn nor upon anybody else in Scotland. The Governor and Judge of the Supreme Court were honoured by L.L.D. and Rev. T. P. Field and somebody else by D. D.

I feel very feeble today and will not add more.

Affectionately yours

Edward Hitchcock

Letter 224

[EHJ to EH, 16 July 1861, EOH, Series 2-A, Box 3, Folder 19]

E. Hampton Mass. July 16 /61

My Dear Father

I have just finished writing what I had to say about the Vermont minerals. It is not well done I know but it is as well as I know how to do it. I have also made out the catalogue of localities of minerals and valuable rocks. The catalogue of the collection is in a jumbled condition and if it goes to press as it is now is there must be some guessing as to what the truth is in some cases. Perhaps Hager could straighten it.

Asked to going up there in...

Page 2

...my vacation, it will be entirely as you say. It probably never would get either you or I any trouble is the matter stands as it now is. Though such a man as Hager might make a handle of it if he chose.

I have heard nothing about the Professorship since your letter and I presume as you suggest – the Trustees are talking with someone else about the matter.

My wife did not view the matter by any means so serenely—I expected that she would: she said at once, where I went "there she should go too."

I think Mr. Clark and Hubbard would advise me to go if I should put the matter directly to them. The worst of the whole matter is that my friends here all know of the matter and if nothing should come of it how unpleasant it would be to me.

I should be ready to give an answer to the Trustees now if they address me on the subject again though I wish I could see you first. But I beg of you not to mention it to anyone lest it should seem like working for the place on my past which I cannot do.

Charley sent me a dispatch on Monday telling me to "accept by all means." It was from Calais Me.

We have expected some of you over here...

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...on some of these cool and pleasant days.

School closes in two weeks from to day and this time will be busy to me. Prof. Lawrence of E. Windsor is to give the address.

Love to the folks

Aff. Your Son,

E. Hitchcock Jr.

Letter 225

[EHJ to EH, 22 July 1861, EOH, Series 2-A, Box 3, Folder 19]

E. Hampton Mass. July 22 /61

My Dear Father

Your last letter reached me on Friday, and I thank you for all the interest you take in trying to secure the position for me.

Of course the Trustees are now looking up someone else or they would have written to me before this. And I have found out that probably Dr. Stearns would prefer someone else to me (This however must be confidential for otherwise I may put one of my best friends in a fix.)

Whatever you send to Doctor Allen or Alden of my letter since I don't care: all I want to do is not to seek the place. For then if I got it and failed to make the thing go I should not have myself to blame, or feel that by my overweening self-confidence...

Page 2

...I had harmed myself or others.

If I must push myself ahead and blow and bluster about myself and my abilities as someone (one) of the Professors at Amherst does then it is certain I can never be a Professor there or anywhere else.

Nothing knocks me in the head so easily and completely as compliments to my face, or in public (whenever I chance to get them!) or worse than all to be obliged to speak of what I can do in order to secure anything. And it is one of my great troubles in talking with Mr. Williston that I am obliged to be very guarded lest I in the slightest manner speak diffidently of my abilities as teacher here. I know it is a weakness and I try hard to overcome it but I can't.

I am more and more certain the time is coming when I shall not be wanted here, and my wife has at last made up her mind to the same thing. How much of this is owing to my incapacity etc. I know not but the fact is sure that the English Department is on the decline and my position will be the first one to be knocked out. However I hope this fact will not make me mean or do one selfish act, and thus make the public suffer in any degree. But I must say that I am not going to stick on here till I am requested to resign my place.

As to going to Andover to see Charley, nothing would please me better than to take the journey in your company. But my money is the trouble. I am more than \$100 worse off than I was one year ago and that aside from the expense of my journey abroad.

Page 3

As to Vermont I can go as soon as Wednesday morning July 31st, and if you send directions to that effect I will go on whenever you choose. But don't send me unless you think it positively necessary.

We wonder why some of the folks don't ride over to see us this beautiful weather. We want to see Kate and the baby very much.

I trust that you will be able to get away sometime this vacation for relaxation. You ought to if possible.

Please don't give yourself trouble or uneasiness about my appointment or non appointment. Charley (D.

V.) will sooner or later be there to take care of the collections you have , though he may not get there just yet. Providence will not allow your work to come to naught. At the same time it would be most pleasant that Charley and I, with so much of your ways of thinking and acting, should be with you now during the ripest and best of your days so that we might be the stronger men for it and do our own work the better. However for the last two years I have constantly thought that when I was done for here, I should then go and finish my days on the farm at Bridgeport. I still think so.

Love to all

Affectionately your son

E Hitchcock Jr.

Letter 226

[EHJ to EH, 19 August 1861, EOH, Series 2-A, Box 3, Folder 19]

East Hampton Mass. August 19 /61

My Dear Father

It is my present intention to go to Lowell tomorrow (Tuesday) in order to have some conversation with Dr. Allen and look into some Gymnasiums. But I shall make a very short thing of it and if possible I mean to get back to Amherst on Wednesday by the last train and spend the night with you.. Perhaps it will be Thursday.

I went to Austin Dickinson and he told me all he could about a house to rent. The only one he...

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...could tell me about was the Belden House which I possibly I may be able to hire. I thought however that it might be well to ask of someone else something about houses and therefore I want to ask you to keep your eyes and ears open so that if you can find anything you can let me know of it.

Gave thought that the Nelson place could be rented, but Mr. Dickinson thought not.

I have as yet received no official intelligence of my appointment, but I have heard that one of the trustees who was at the meeting said I was chosen.

It seems as if such delay was injurious to the college as well as troublesome to me.

I hope you have got much good by visiting Saratoga .

Affectionately your Son,

E. Hitchcock Jr.

Letter 227

[Stebbins to EHJ to EH, 20 January 1864, EOH, Series 1-F, Box 2, Folder 31]

Deerfield January 20th /64

E. Hitchcock Jr. Esq.

Dear Sir

Your letter of inquiry was received. I hasten to answer. Your father's land as per valuation list of 1863 are as follows Viz.

17 acres mowing and tillage Great Meadow	\$1340
6 acres mowing and tillage Long Meadow	\$270
7 acres mowing and tillage North Pine Hill	\$490
29 1/2 acres mowing and tillage Neck	\$2225
5 1/2 acres mowing and tillage Harris Meadows	\$325

[Total] 65 acres \$4650

Yours, etc.

E. W. Stebbins

Chairman of Board of Assessors of Deerfield

[Check] Received of Edward Hitchcock Jr. of the estate of Edward Hitchcock late of Amherst in the County of Hampshire deceased, payment of 99 dollars and \$0.70 for a duty or tax upon all the personal property left by said deceased and payable before distribution of said property under the Revenue Act of July 1, 1862.

[Signed] Charles Phelps, Dpty. Collector

[On reverse] Legacy Tax

Letter 228

[Silliman Jr. to EHJ, 29 February 1864, EOH, Series 1-D, Box 2, Folder 6]

New Haven Feb 29 1864

My Dear Sir

How much I should rejoice to be able to assist in the the last tribute on earth to the memory of your beloved and now sainted Father you well know, and my regret is proportionate that events now beyond my control compel me to go on Wednesday in an opposite direction.

My good father is much moved by the death of yours whom he had once the honor to call his pupil before the time of your memory or mine. We have persuaded my father that it is not well for him to obey his impulse and assist in the obsequies of Wednesday. At his great age the burthen of 85 years is not small and his strength is easily overtaxed especially where his feelings are deeply moved.

Fortunately your Father has left us an agreeable record of much.

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We all wished to know of his simple earnest life so full of good deeds. His memory will be blessed by this and all future generations for the substantial benefits he has placed in the way of all deserving men striving to attain knowledge.

For one like him Death is the open door to Heaven. Where is fullness of knowledge and free from human infirmity he will reach after the Divine Perfections without obstruction. Should we not rejoice that his lot is so blessed!

I beg you will present to your Bro Charles and your Sisters our cordial sympathy and believe us ever your friends.

Yours very truly

B. Silliman Jr.

Prof. E Hitchcock Jr.

Letter 229

[Storrs to EHJ, 1 March 1864, EOH, Series 1-D, Box 2, Folder 6]

Braintree Mar. 1 /1864

Prof. E. Hitchcock

My dear friend,

Thus, as a shock of corn in its season fully ripe, your beloved father is gathered into the vast granary above! His work is done— well done—as a toil with sorrow his exchanged for rest, with everlasting joy! Happy – glorious—wondrous exchange!

Thousands of hearts will beat in unison with yours and the bereaved family, at this hour of your

bereavement—for thousands sustain an irreparable loss in the event to feel affair to the veteran soldier of the loop!

"God will be with you." Much as I should love to mingle tears and prayers and praises with you at this time, 'tis a privilege beyond the reach of one so shaken by the world, and held to earth by only a single fragile root.

I loved you father! His children are dear in the heart of your very sincere friend,

R. L. Storrs

Letter 230

[Dana to EHJ, 2 March 1864, EOH, Series 1-D, Box 2, Folder 6]

Cummington Mass. March 2nd 64

Dr. E. Hitchcock

My Dear Sir

I was pained to learn by your letter of Saturday that your father has fallen asleep. Yet for him we have no reason to mourn. He has put off the Earthly Tabernacle to be clothed upon from on high. His death will be a great loss to the family and to the College and the world of Science and Letters. I regret exceedingly that I cannot be with you and mingle my tears with yours over his mortal remains.

When your first letter came I felt that I could not go because on Tuesday I had an engagement of a public nature which could not be dispensed with. Your second letter came last evening, but mean while death had come here, and I had a funeral to attend this morning. Thus my way has been hedged up; and the will must be accepted for the deed. I shall cherish the memory of your father as long as I live, and bless God for having permitted me to feel his influence.

With kindest regards to all the friends

I remain,

Yours truly

Jay J Dana

Letter 231

[J. W. Foster to EHJ, 8 March 1864, EOH, Series 1-D, Box 2, Folder 6]

Chicago March 8, 1864

Dear Sir

I shall share deeply in the regrets of all lovers of natural science that one so honored and respected as your father should have been taken from us. Yet it was an event long expected and is meet which he was fully prepared. He has accomplished great results through a long and laborious life, and his name will be indissolubly linked with some of the grandest generalizations in American Geology. But all this is preliminary to a little business matter which perhaps it would be well to adjust while the facts are fresh in the recollection of yourself. I have commenced sending specimens for the Amherst Cabinet and on the 13th ult. he wrote to your sister acting...

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...as amanuensis, that I must stop, that he had but \$50 to spare for this object, and authorizing me to draw for that amount. He acknowledged that the value was far in excess of that amount, but trusted that I would not have it in my heart to order any specimen back.

I do not regard this sum as a compensation for the specimens one of which—the copper boulder from Kankakee, is commercially worth one half of the amount to smelt up, but it will pay the expense of packing and boxing and consulting over, which I have been at, and I shall so regard as a donation to the Cabinet.

I wish therefore you would remit me the amount by a check on New York through the Amherst Bank and I will sign any proper receipt.

Yours truly

J. W. Foster

E. Hitchcock Amherst Mass.

Letter 232

[Bela White to EHJ, 17 March 1864, EOH, Series 1-D, Box 2, Folder 6]

Kanosha N. T. March 17 /64

Dear Nephew

Last mail brought me yours of February 29th with the sad though not unexpected news of your father's death. I was as I thought prepared for the event by your former letter, but still it gives me a shock at this moment. It forcibly reminds of the passage in Job 8:26 wherein it says "Thou shall come to thy grave in a full age, like as a shock of corn cometh in, in his season." The loss of both parents in the course of a few very brief months must be sensibly felt by all the children. But after all perhaps there is more cause for joy than sorrow. They have both lived to an advanced age and were weighed down by...

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...many of the infirmities and sufferings of life; and we have abundant reason to believe that they were removed from the sorrow of this world, to a higher and happier state of existence, where continued joys instead of sorrows exist evermore. It is I know hard parting with dear friends here, but I hope and trust that you may be enabled willingly to submit to the will of Divine Providence, and be enabled to thank him that your parents have been spared to superintend the education of a numerous family and to see some of them respectably settled in life; and that when you look upon those situations to consider how much of this you owe to good and pious parents.

And may it stimulate you who have children growing up around you to train them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.

Please write again soon and let me know your future determinations for life and the further particulars of father's death and also his precise age.

A numerous circle of friends and acquaintances I have no doubt will mingle their sympathies with yours in this event.

Give love for me to your dear wife, brothers and sisters, and say to them it would afford me pleasure to receive a letter from them as they are the nearest relatives now left to me and should we never be permitted to see each other here, the Lord grant that we so live as to meet our pious friends who have gone before us in another and a better world, is the prayer of your affectionate uncle,

Bela White

Letter 233

[Reed to EHJ, 22 March 1864, EOH, Series 1-D, Box 2, Folder 6]

[On letterhead]

S. Reed's Agricultural Warehouse and Seed Store

Pittsfield Mass. March 22, 1864

Dear Sir,

I noticed in the Congregationalist something of a Photograph of my much loved friend your dear Father. May I ask you to send me one of the kind notices if that is the best one on sale. If there is a better one I should like it and will most cheerfully remit to you the expence. With a vivid recollection, fondly cherished, of the many favors I received from Pres. Hichcock and his family and the hope that his broad mantle may remain enveloping all of his family, extended...

Page 2

...are his large circle of friends. I have a strong desire to have a place in that circle. Our acquaintance commenced some fifty years since in a search for the then famous "Natural iron of Canaan Mountain." In our subsequent interchanges in our associated capacity in an appreciation for the Advance of Science and the Board of Agriculture no discordant note came from our corner. I shall always remember how brightly his sterling integrity once shown in the Board of Agriculture when on a certain occasion a little duplicity transpired perhaps from the corruption of something is called Political Management, was proposed to secure the election of a certain candidate for an office then vacant. He met it in a manner so firm and decided that it died at his hand.

Pledging you personally my kind remembrance, I am

Very truly yours

S. Reed

E. Hitchcock M. D.

Letter 234

[Edward A. Strong to EHJ, 19 March 1864, EOH, Series 1-D, Box 2, Folder 6]

Boston, May 19th 1864

My dear Sir,

I beg to hand to you herewith and through you to all the family of the late President Hitchcock the Resolutions adopted at a recent meeting of the Amherst Alumni Association of Boston and vicinity.

And in tendering them, permit me, in behalf of our Association, to add in a less formal...

Page 2

...manner, the assurance of our sincere sympathy with you all in your bereavement.

Very respectfully,

Edward A. Strong

Cor. Secy.

Edward Hitchcock MD

Letter 235

[Perkins to EHJ, 23 March 1864, EOH, Series 1-D, Box 2, Folder 6]

Oroomiah, May 23rd [1864] [A city in Iran known today as Urumiah]

My dear Dr. Hitchcock,

Our papers recently received bring us the sorrowful tidings of the death of your dear father. It is rather a matter of relief and gratification to my own feelings than the expectation of solacing your sorrows that I address you this note to show you how deeply I sympathize with you and your sisters and brothers in this very sore bereavement. I have long accounted as one of the special blessings of my life that I have so long been favored with the friendship of your beloved and revered parents. Your father came to Amherst as professor during my freshman year and I boarded with Mrs. White (now Mrs. Sprague) who lived in the same house during a part of my college course and was privileged to board at your father's table...

[Mrs. White would be Caroline White who married Rev. Daniel Sprague in 1829]

Page 2

...deemed a great blessing. I shall regard it a great favor if I may be permitted to hear occasionally from any of his children.

When you write Mr. and Mrs. Storrs I beg an affectionate remembrance to them and please express the same to your brothers and sisters in Amherst. I have read with deep interest the biographical notices of your departed parents from the pen of Prof. Tyler. When any more extended memoirs appear, may I hope to receive copies?

My health is good—and I am able to toil on as usual, though I feel deeply the absence of my dear family.

I bet your kind remembrance to Mrs. H. and other friends in Amherst. Hoping that I may hear from you, and wishing you and yours every blessing.

I am most truly

Yours,

J. Perkins

Letter 236

[AC Trustees to EHJ, 14 July 1864, EOH, Series 1-D, Box 2, Folder 6]

Amherst College

July 14, 1864

Edward Hitchcock M.D., Prof. Hygiene etc.

My dear Sir,

I am directed by the Board of Trustees to communicate to your father's family the following minute adopted by the board concerning him, and entered in full upon its Record.

With great regards, yours,

E. J. Dwight, Secretary

(Copy)

"The memorial of the great and good is always found in the results of their labors for the benefit of those among whom they live and labored. Guided by this rule, the late President Hitchcock is seen everywhere around us. Though dead, truly he yet speaketh! Nowhere can we look, without his marks standing prominently out. And so will it be, whilst Amherst College shall continue to be known among men. Often as she may change...

Page 2

..her external dress, there will always remain, from generation to generation, the foot-prints and the head-prints of Edward Hitchcock.

He stands connected with the early struggles of the College. He is known and been in every effort that was made, from whatever quarter, to advance the interests of the College, to give it standing and character before the public, and amongst its fellows, and to get rid of all attempts to throw odium upon its influence, or to misrepresent its true purpose and honorable aspirations.

In the cause of Natural Science, Dr. Hitchcock was devoted, earnest, and thoroughly armed. In bringing Science to a full and constant recognition of God, and of that Religion which came from God, as it was the joy of his heart, so did it manfully and nobly concentrate all his great powers of thought, observation, reflection, and discriminating analysis.

We, his associates, and in one Department co-laborers, take delight in recalling the numberless graces of his character, and gladly would we descant upon them at large. But we desire simply to plant here upon the Records of the...

Page 3

...Trustees this hearty and full-souled memorial. "Primus inter pares" [First among equals] will find no ungrateful response in any heart, that has ever been animated with love and reverence to Amherst

College."

Letter 237

[Sprague to EHJ, 28 February 1864, EOH, Series 1-D, Box 2, Folder 6]

South Orange Feb. 28 1864

Dr. Edward Hitchcock and bereaved family circle

Dear Friends,

By your Telegraphick Dispatch we received last evening the melancholy intelligence that your revered Father and very dear Friend has passed from time to eternity. We a few days since heard through Prof. Smith of Union Sem'y that your Father could probably survive but a very short time and were therefore expecting the sad tidings. But still it is hard to realize we are no more to meet the one we so much esteemed. Yet happy thought that our loss has been his unspeakable gain. This...

Page 2

...profound loss both of natural and theological science now finds full and perfect exercise, and higher joys than earth could give. Welcomed by his dear companion, angelic hosts, and the spirits just now made perfect, and surpassing all by the Saviour's plaudit of "Come ye blessed."

Be assured of our deep sympathies with you in this afflictive dispensation, and more that we are sharing in kindred mourning. Would circumstances permit, we should be glad to mingle with you on the interesting funeral occasion. Though necessarily absent in body, we shall be present in mind, and with our prayers that a sanctified influence may result to all relations, and the extensive circle of acquaintances and friends. In behalf of wife, with affectionate sympathy.

Truly yours,

D. G. Sprague

Letters of Emily Hitchcock Terry #238-240

Emily Hitchcock letters

Letter 238

[Ward to EHT, 27 September 1910, EOH, Series 14, Box 26a, Folder 41]

[Letterhead: The Independent, 130 Fulton Street, New York Editorial Rooms]

September 27, 1910

My dear Emily

Thanks for Doctor Gilbert's letter. I don't remember that saying about peeking under stones, but I do remember how much I enjoyed those Sunday talks he gave us in his parlor – and how pained I was when he was succeeded by President Stearns in the middle of my college course. And he wanted me to give myself to geology! And what a delightful home yours was.

Well, all quiet with us. My two sisters home, and two other sisters with us for a week. The two sisters, half-sisters, of my...

Page 2

...Mary Dickinson has had in New York an operation to remove an internal tumor, and is now doing well, and will return home tomorrow. Yes, I shall go to the National Council to see if I can gather up the fragments of the smash-up of tri-union at Cleveland three years ago.

I am glad you are enjoying the fall in Vermont, and that Miss Woolson has her merits. More folks, except you and me have their minor failings.

I am still very busy, as Mr. Holt will not be back from Mexico for a week or more and I run his department.

Yours with love, ,

William Hayes Ward

[National Council Tri-Union in Cleveland in 1907 was an effort to join Congregationalist, Methodist and Baptists churches nationwide. William Hayes Ward was on the staff of The Independent, a newspaper (or magazine?)]

Letter 239

[Allen to EHT, 25 March 1864, EOH, Series 14, Box 26a, Folder 41]

William Allen

Friday, March 25, 1864

My dear Jenny and Emily,

I was very agreeably surprised on Tuesday by receiving your photographs. I think they are very good and thank you much for sending them. My time of late has been much occupied or I should have written to you sometime since.

I did not need, to remember you, these mute reminders of your dear selves, but I received them very gratefully and they spoke to me more plainly than many a long letter and told me of...

Page 2

...another sad parting you have passed through. The past year has made great and trying changes to you yet I know you see a kind Father's hand in all this. You now find that promise precious – “when my father and mother forsake thee, then the Lord will take thee up. “God has certainly favored you very highly in the gift – of such parents as yours were, and you must feel grateful that they were spared to watch over and influence you until your characters and opinions were formed. How pleasant also to feel that none knew them but to love and honor them, and that they were held in the highest esteem by many who never saw them.

The consoles and prayers of Christian parents are inestimable blessings which are scarcely appreciated until they are in the past, but which we shall never cease to thank God for.

Our friend Anne Rousseau is in great affliction. She has lost her only brother to whom she was tenderly attached. Her uncle and aunt are growing old and she felt that if she outlived them that she would find a welcome and a home in her brother's family – but all her hopes have been suddenly cut off. She seems quite broken down with sorrow. She often...

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...speaks of you and expresses much sympathy for you in your trials.

I regretted very much that I did not see more of you while in Amherst. I intended to walk down some afternoon when it was not humid and make a long call, but I was prevented by having so many callers myself. I staid one day longer than I intended in A. [Amherst] almost entirely that I might see you but it

was fearfully cold and windy and I did not dare to venture out of doors.

I must close my dear friends hoping that you will feel disposed to write me soon.

That the Lord will comfort and sustain you in all your afflictions is a prayer of your loving friend.

Josie M Allen.

Letter 240

[Gilbert to EHT, 11 September 1910, EOH, Series 14, Box 26a, Folder 41]

Simeon Gilbert

Pittsford Vermont.

September 11-10

My dear Mrs. Jenny:

Complying with your requests I take pleasure in noting down the substance of what I mentioned to you the other day respecting your venerated father, President Hitchcock of Amherst, one of the foremost geologists of his day specially in the department of Paleontology – who it maybe said, caused the whole valley of the Connecticut River to occupy a new place in the geological...

Page 2

...history of the world.

For very many years, I think ever since the old Andover days, the saying respecting him which has lingered impressively in my mind was this – That he was wont to go wandering here and there and everywhere over hill and dale turning over rocks and peering into hidden places, as though feeling that any next moment, "he might come across the very handwriting of God himself."

"It was of course the fact that he impersonated at once the spirit of the ardent religionist and that of the impassioned scientist which seemed to give such point to the characteristic remark. And how true and fast and fine a sentiment it did imply.

Permit me, Mrs. Jenny, to join your other friends...

Page 3

...in congratulating you on your beautiful academic pension – and to express the hope that these your graduate years may be – as the old hymn has it – "full of sweet content" along with an ever quick sense

to interpret "the very handwriting" in the divine Providences of daily life.

This on my daughter's account as well as my own.

Sincerely yours,

Simeon Gilbert

1243 North State Chicago

Letter 241

[KH to March, 23 September 1848, EOH, Series 14, Box 26a, Folder 38]

Amherst, Sept. 23, 1848

My Dear Friends,

I am in your debts for kind notes and messages while I was in Boston, but – not because I was forgetful of them, or of you. No indeed – not that. I do thank you for remembering me so kindly. I have thought of you all a great deal since I left you and I shall always remember my visit at your house, as one of the pleasantest I ever made anywhere. I shall now be looking forward to next summer in the confident expectation of seeing some of you, at least, in Amherst. And only wish I could promise you one half as pleasant a visit here, as Father and Mother and I had in Belleville. Apart from the most cordial welcome, we have little to offer very attractive to visitors. That, you will have in large measure.

I was very much disappointed in not seeing you again. My Dear Mrs March. That thunderstorm in the morning prevented my returning by an earlier train as I had intended. I was afraid you would be gone – and my fears I saw were to be realized. When I entered our room at “65 Hancock Str.” And your trunks were both gone – Oh, how I missed those trunks! You know I had a feeling from the beginning about them –

Page 2

I was very sorry that you should leave us so soon, but especially for such a reason. I hope my Dear Mary is quite well again before now. Our last accounts in Boston were favorable. I wish you would come here and try the effect of our mountain air – I had no idea that there was so much difference between this and the air of the sea coast; or rather I should say, I never realized it. It is cold enough here – perfectly breezy. We are not comfortable without fires and thick clothing – but it is very much more dry. We can take a much larger quantity into our lungs, without unpleasant cause of nerves, than of that damp sea atmosphere.

In a few days our scenery will be very splendid. Indeed it is somewhat so now. The trees are putting on their gorgeous autumn hues – and when they are a little more changed, and the sun shines out brightly, it will be a sight – worth looking at. I have the impression, perhaps an incorrect one, that the trees do not assume that brilliancy in autumn, along the seashore, that they do in the interior. I think you do not have as many maple trees, but more elms. The maple with us wears the gayest colors, while the elm is one of the least brilliant. I should like to have you see our autumn landscape. Oh, if we could only find a place which combined all the beauties and the advantages of both seaside and inland!

I already find myself longing to hear the roar of old ocean again and see the waves dashing so proudly. Life on the sea-shore is signaled by nothing else – though, as to the roaring, the wind is pretty faithful at that here, today. I tell you, it is like winter.

You have heard from “Harry,” of course, since he reached Prescott. I found a letter from him here, when I reached home, giving Father his impressions of the place. I should think he was pleasantly situated and where he will do good. He thought there were some evidences of the pressure of the Holy Spirit among Christians. Oh, I do hope his prayers and efforts will be the means of great good to them. The blessing of God has hitherto seemed to accompany and give effect to his religious labors wherever performed. May it ever be so! I hope we shall soon see him here – and I want very much to hear him preach again – a different kind of sermon. I think his preaching would make a deep impression on those with whom he has associated in earlier life. They have always known him so consistent with his professed principles.

I hope Capt. Hale has recovered from that severe cold which afflicted him when I left Boston. He really looked sick and probably felt worse than he looked. I was glad to hear him say that his Mother was pretty well.

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I was afraid all the sickness of the week before would be too much for her strength. He told me too that Sophia expected to leave you for Vt. [Vermont] next week. When you write give her a great deal of love from me – tell her I want to see her and little Alice too. Tell Alice please not forget me.

I had another delightful visit in Boston – I remained there until Wed. morn enjoying every moment. Mr. Hale very kindly took me to many places in the suburbs of Boston which I had never before visited, also, I might say, to some foreign countries. I seldom regret returning home from any place, but I really wish I could stay longer there. I found my home friends all well, except Father. He is not well this autumn.

Please remember me to Capt. Wittemore’s family – to Mr. Moses Hale’s. I have promised to write to Anna Rousseau when I return from Pittsfield – to Mr. Fiske – and all others whom I saw in Belleville. I couldn’t persuade Mr. Fiske to take that facsimile of himself to Mary. He hoaxed me twice, and then I gave it up.

Now a great deal of love to you all, I send. I shall hope to hear from you – if some of you will feel inclined to write me a letter. Mother will include a letter with this. So let us hear from you soon. Yours in sincere affection,

Kate Hitchcock

[Belleville might refer to Belleville, New Jersey, very near Orange. “Harry” probably referred to George Harrison Newhall, a Hitchcock family friend, who preached at Prescott, MA, although it might be Henry Storrs, a recent graduate of AC ('46), who Catherine would marry in 1852.]

Letters to Mary Hitchcock #242-250

Letter 242

[EH to MH, 25 December 1841, EOH, Series 2-B, Box 4, Folder 45]

Amherst December 25, 1841

My dear Mary,

From what I said the other evening I thought that you and the teachers of the seminary might be confidently expecting me to come and lecture before my journey to New York. I did indeed calculate upon it. But having been obliged to go to Conway last week to the ordination I could not come till Friday or Saturday and then Ma whom I wish to accompany me was so severely affected with a cold as to be unable to go. She is still almost sick though a little relieved and there is no prospect that she can go with me the early part of the week and as I hope to start for N. York as soon as Thursday I perceive that this Lecture at South Hadley must for the present be given up. I hope the time...

Page 2

...may come when I shall accomplish this object.

We have been told that some individuals in the seminary are seriously inquiring what they must do to be saved: and we feel extremely anxious to have you also seize upon some favorable opportunity. We do not believe that you will ever have so good a one – perhaps never one to be at all compared to it – perhaps it may be your last call. Will you not then seize upon the invitation now made to you and at once yield your heart to the Saviour. Then if sickness or death should come you would be [????]: come what might come you could meet it with composure. But now how unprepared for any such visitation! We are glad to hear of your health and progress in study. But how much more joyful would be the news of your conversion to God! We feel as if we could not leave this world until that change has taken place: and yet our growing infirmities admonish us that the time cannot be distant when we must leave it whether you are prepared or unprepared for eternity.

Little Charley has had a cold with earache and has become very deaf so that it is difficult to make him hear. We have great reason to fear that it will be permanent. Indeed we think it has been coming on for some time past.

Ma has not returned your dress because it is not washed on account of her being unwell. It will we hope be done tomorrow. If you need letter paper before we can send it you had better buy some. I will try to send you some black ink ere long for I do not like the blue better than you do.

With respect to Miss Lyon and the other teachers I remain your affectionate father

Edward Hitchcock

Envelope address:

Miss Mary Hitchcock
Female seminary
South Hadley Mass.

Postmark: Amherst December 28

Letter 243

[EH to MH, 1 January 1851, EOH, Series 2-B, Box 4, Folder 45]

1851

Dear Mary,

Accept as a new year's present, the enclosed Sovereign, from your Parents; as an emblem of what they wish you to become; viz. a Sovereign ruling, not a nation, but yourself, and the temptations of the world, and thus acquiring a Dominion more important and honorable and that...

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of Semiramis or Victoria.

Amherst, January 1st 1851

Letter 244

[EH to MH, 16 October 1853, EOH, Series 2-B, Box 4, Folder 45]

Amherst Sabbath evening
October 16th 1853

My dear Mary,

We were indeed glad to hear from you which we did on Monday afternoon. Your letter was mailed on Saturday previous. I was sorry to trouble Mrs. Sullivan but we had become quite anxious about you after hearing that Mr. Emerson had gone to Brooklyn.

We have not heard a word from your mother since she got into the stage on Tuesday morning. I should hope for a letter tomorrow. But as I expect to go away in the morning in pursuit of footmarks I cannot hope...

Page 2

...to hear anything till Thursday evening when I hope to return. Yesterday Charles and I were away on the same business and Jane ran away also in our absence as well as Groves so that Bridget had the house to herself.

I am sorry to hear that you are not improving in health. I think you will find it better in a few days after you get used to being away from home. I think you had better stay as long as is pleasant now that you are away; and I would say the same to Ma who I hope is now with you. We should be glad to see you both back: but I know of nothing special that should lead you to come before your visits are well finished. If you should not conclude to return until the first part of next week perhaps I can come down and return with you though I am not sure of it. But I wish you would let me know as soon as you can when you wish to come back. I thought perhaps that I might go down by the night train on Monday if I knew at what hotel to stop. Perhaps Mr. Cray can tell you of one near 27th street where I should rather stop than to go down to the park. I thank him for his kind invitation to come to his house. But really I think we shall be so deeply in his debt for his hospitality to you and Ma that it will take some years...

Page 3

...to pay the debt. If I come to New York I shall not be able probably to stay more than one day. If you go over tomorrow to Orange you may not receive this till it is too late to let me know your plans for it to reply. In that case take your own course and if you do not come home next Saturday perhaps I shall go down on Monday. The more I think of it however the more I doubt whether I can conveniently do it as I am obliged to be absent so much upon geological matters. The weather is fine now and with love to Ma and respects to Mrs. Sellon and Mr. Cary's family I remain affectionately yours

Edward Hitchcock

PS if you go down Broadway as far as Newman and Ivison Bookstore (No. 199) I wish you would call and ask whether they have not a small package for me.

Letter 245

[EH to MH, 10 December 185?, EOH, Series 2-B, Box 4, Folder 45]

[This letter was probably from 1855; Hitchcock gave a series of lectures in New Jersey in October and November, possibly also December; see letter 199]

N. York Wednesday morning
Dec 10th

My dear Mary,

Charles and I are both in the city and if you can stay so long – that is if Mr. Sprague's family do not get so tired of you that they cannot keep you. I advise you to remain till Saturday when (or earlier perhaps) Charles certainly and perhaps myself will come out to Orange. I suppose I shall lecture in Bloomfield on Saturday evening and possibly on Friday – also the next Tuesday in Elizabeth. If you should think it best

to stay over the Sabbath Charles can go back with you. At any rate I think it will be best to start from Orange in the forenoon and go on the 3 o'clock train reaching Northampton about 10 o'clock PM. If you go in this way you might ought to write home to let them know on what day you go that they may send a sleigh over for you: or if they do not you must spend the night there.

Page 2

Mr. Sprague has just handed me your letter and all I can say is that I must leave it for you to do as you think best either to come over tomorrow or wait. If you come tomorrow I will see to it that either Charles or myself shall meet you at No. 5 Beekman St. when you reach here. I shall be very glad to call Mr. Ford if it be possible. If not please present my respects to them.

Truly yours

Edward Hitchcock

Letter 246

[EH to MH and KH, 12 May 1844, EOH, Series 2-B, Box 4, Folder 45]

Washington May 12th 1844 (Sunday)

My dear daughters Mary and Catherine,

It seems to me so long since I left home that I thought I might not improperly devote a little time even on the Sabbath in writing to you.

You are probably seeing so much in the papers since I left about collisions on the railroad on the route I came and mobs and bloodshed in Philadelphia that you may feel some anxiety for my safety. But through the kindness of Providence no evil or accident has thus far befallen me. I was in Philadelphia about the time of the murders there for an hour or two but I assure you I did not join the mobs in burning the churches and shooting the citizens who ventured so near the scene of action as to be shot like a man from Boston who was saved only by the bullet striking a piece of money in his jacket pocket which stopped it. The excesses committed by the mob have been great but order is now restored. You will see the particulars in the papers.

I came over the same railroad between Baltimore and Philadelphia where the collision...

Page 2

...took place two nights before. My seat was in the forward car close to the engine but we came safely. The railroads this way are miserably managed compared to what they are in New England and I wonder more actions do not occur. Traveling here is also much more expensive than with us.

The weather for the last 24 hours has been exceedingly hot equal to the hottest of our dog days and it was fortunate for me that I took a thin coat. This morning there has been a shower—the country is extremely dry. Washington is a very peculiar place though it looks very pleasant as this season of the year. It is very open and airy in Washington: but it is a great job to get from one part of the city to the other. I went at first to Mr. Marcoe's but finding it so far from the place of meeting I have gone to a private boarding house.

Our Geological meeting is pretty full and we have papers enough presented to fill up a week entirely. Our meetings do not excite much interest here and upon the whole it is a very miserable place for a scientific meeting. I hope leave for home by the middle of the week and if I can accomplish what I wish perhaps I may be able to make South Hadley or Hoccanum on Friday at 3 or 4 o'clock in the afternoon in the stage from Springfield to Northampton. If you would like to ride to either of those places on that afternoon possibly you may find me: but do not be disappointed if I am not there as I cannot yet calculate plainly when I shall reach there.

The number of negroes in the city is very great and yet one would not know from anything he sees that they are slaves nor can you tell which of them are slaves and which are free. There is a slave market here and yet I have not found out where it is. I doubt not that slavery is seen here in its mildest forms. It is bad enough any where and intelligent men here speak of it as a great curse. The great difficulty here is that slaves soon learn something in such a place and that spoils them.

I have just attended preaching in the Hall of Congress at the Capital. One of the chaplains preached with reference to the recent decease of so many members and notice was given in the papers that he would do so: and yet I do not believe that 20 members of Congress were present. The streets here are about as noisy as on other days and the Sabbath stands a poor chance in such a place where so many things so much more important in the eyes of the world than religion have to be attended to. But then if one's own heart is right he can enjoy the Sabbath almost any where. It is much easier to complain of others for violating the Sabbath than to keep it in a proper manner ourselves.

The other children and mama must not think I have forgotten them because I...

Page 2

...address you. That you may all be preserved in health and peace and that we may meet again in this world—and certainly in another is the sincere prayer of your affectionate father.

E. Hitchcock

Addressed to: Miss Mary Hitchcock Amherst Mass.
Postmark: Washington DC May

Letter 247

[EHT to MH, undated, EOH, Series 14, Box 26a, Folder 40]

My dear sister Mary.

As Jane was going to write to you I thought I would write a few lines to you. I am having a vacation now. My school closed Thursday afternoon. Our Picnic came on the day after you went away. We had a very pleasant time there. Francis Emerson said that she did not know what to do without you now you were gone.

Edward is quite sick; so much so that I had to go after the doctor this afternoon. I wish you would...

Page 2

...write a letter to me; I want to have you very much. We had a visit from Mr. Taylor the other day. How does your hand get along? I hope it is getting better. Are you going to the Statehouse? I should like to go very much. Have you seen Anna Fiske yet? If you see her I wish you would tell her to write to me. Tirzah Snell is coming home next week. We are going to have our Levee next Friday evening.

I believe I must close.

So good bye yours affectionately

Emily

Address: Miss Mary Hitchcock, Boston, Ms

Letter 248

[Harrison Newhall to MH, 19 November 1847, EOH, Series 14, Box 26a, Folder 46]

And. Theo. Sem. [Andover Theological Seminary, Andover, Mass.]

Nov. 19 '47

My dear Mary

I break this ½ ream of paper for your special benefit. You are to have the first sheet. But I will wait till another time to finish. I commenced about 9 1/2 p.m. It is now 10 1/2. Good night

November 20 at 6 PM Abel arrived this noon and has just thrown a purse upon the table which you may have seen before and he says "Let me put in a word." Says he has a paper for passion for putting things in a corner; which does not refer to his trunk, I take it, for that is very near the middle of my most delightful room [??]

it is a great room in more senses than one. But I must get ready for the Sabbath. Poor Joseph and Mary Bennett! How horrible! They are overwhelmed in affliction – you have of course heard of Mr. B's suicide

– committed yesterday morning in a fit of insanity I suppose. He has appeared to be insane for some days. I am fatherless and motherless, but oh I thank God that they were called away by Him – not left to rush forbidden to His holy presence.

Page 2

Nov. 24 "Things that love night love not such nights as this." Very true Mr. Shakespeare – but Lear never experienced a harder case than this – a hot driving southerly rain on the 24th November! All right! It is in the place of snow ugh!

I returned yesterday from Mr. Bennett's funeral. There is deep affliction in his house. His young and interesting wife bound down with grief – children suddenly made orphans and that by their father's hand – prospective years of happiness all clouded in one sad hour. You may imagine – I cannot tell you the gloomy story – Mary was in Boston at the time of her father's suicide. Joseph burst open the door and found his father with the razor at his throat! He shouted for help and when it came, ran for a physician – but it was too late. I was told the carotid and jugular were both severed – one gash on one side of the throat – two on the other. Mr. B. breathed an hour or two, but gave no sign of sense that I know of. The funeral was very large. Mr. B gave unmistakable evidence of mental derangement and double was watching time but he eluded his vigilance long enough to accomplish his deed. Poor man! I heard he is better off now. His aberration was probably the effect of a natural reaction after a long and unusual blow of spirits combined (I presume) with the knowledge of some dissatisfaction existing among a portion of his people. But say nothing of this last. "Nihil de mortuis nisi bonum." [Never speak ill of the dead] And Mrs. B. had virtues enough to secure charity for his many eccentricities.

But really Mary it was extremely kind and thoughtful in you to write to me. I look upon myself as a kind of pilgrim and am flattered by any notice which looks hearty and friendlike – but then it must have been a trial for you – a real self-denial, to write with such an ugly finger. You are a good girl Mary in some respects – O I'll tell you so – but don't be vain for likely enough after all you wrote with some selfish motive or other – now didn't you? But I'm obliged to you indeed I am. As for Kate (and her name recalls an impression of a young lady of 21 carrying marble limestone up the current stairs in a sort of Xantippic fit) from whence she recovered in due time. I think she is a much better girl than she...

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...thinks I do. I am sorry she has such an idea of my idea of her. I had an opportunity to say a fraternal word for her the other day and as I said it wondered if she would say as much for me. I am sorry – very sorry she looks at me so angularly but she knows better. I admire her spirit but she must keep her temper. Billings seemed delighted in a small way with her love – vuminating on the quantity and ardor of it I presume with some dubiousness – thoughts of Saratoga and Hebrew mingled confusedly in his brain perhaps. I'm making a fool of myself. But do make up with Kate for me – I am really troubled about that though. I don't know how to understand her – I thought we parted fairly enough. I'll make any concessions which a churchman should – beg her pardon. Won't do so any more – will take it all back will –do anything becoming a gentleman if she'll only tell me what – I confess I am quite at a loss just at present to determine attitude and azimuth in relation to your family. Your mother seems quite maternal – you write – Kate – Edward did send me a page or two once – the smaller children like to be jumped and your father has done me more than I can ever repay. I am in a quandary.

Page 4

Thursday – I had an invitation to go out of town today but thought I should be better contented and more thankful here. I am glad so many have homes to go to. I have a nice quiet one here. My clock ticks most companionably and my watch seems striving to emulate it. Oh how much I have to be thankful for! My room is so comfortable my friend so kind – God is good – but then I am so insensible and ungrateful it spoils all the enjoyment of any mercies. Somebody sent me a splendid octavo Bible from Boston on my birthday! I don't know I'm sure. I hope the giver quite be blessed. I wish you could see it – turkey and guilt. By the way Mary do you grow in grace? Do you find yourself near and nearer your god? Are you striving to get new clear views of Him? Of Christ? Every expression with me seems to be the precursor of a higher elevation if that can be so called which generally seems like a position under water. But I don't know – I am very unfit for the ministry – very. How can I go on? But I won't trouble you – "The heart knoweth its own bitterness." Be a good girl.

Harriet Hinsdale has been here you know. I had an "all sorts of a visit" with her if I made use so common a term. Remember me to her if you please.

Now don't forget to aim higher and higher in the Christian life Mary, for only by so doing will you glorify your Master. Pray much – and sometimes for me
Aff'y Harrison

Envelope: Miss Mary Hitchcock
Amherst Mass.

[In margins, p. 1]

Don't read this to Kate, Mary. She will be sure to misunderstand me where I speak of her. You may read any other part of it. I consider you in honor bound not to disoblige me.

Thursday. Abel has gone home to Thanksgiving and will not be back for several days I suppose. You must wait to my next for his "word" probably some acknowledgment of your kindness to him in the items of roses, purse, etc.

I can imagine what a rare time you're having at your happy home today. I have eaten dinner read the paper got up to my room and what is singular in such a day I feel very comfortable having eaten about enough.

[In margins, p. 2]

Ask Kate if she would forgive me – I am quite to blame for teasing her so I know. Make up for me if you can and tell me all's right.

[In margin, p. 3]

Remember me to all the family. If Edward hasn't read Xenophon's Memorabilia yet tell him to get Mr. Robbins new edition \$1.25 very fine indeed. He has read it though already.

You'll pardon the incivility of my writing on the margins I hope. I often do it though I know better

[On envelope] Write me again when convenient.

Letter 249

[Tuckerman to MH, 29 July 1864, EOH, Series 1-D, Box 2, Folder 8]

Monday eve
29th July 1864

My dear Miss Mary,

It was with deep sorrow I received the intelligence of your dear father's death this morning, though I cannot say that it took me by surprise. Having heard from time to time of his rapidly decreasing strength and the great pain he had constantly to endure I could not but feel as you say in your letter (received but just now) rejoiced that his sufferings are over.

Yes, rejoiced! For how glowing his exchange! Pain, sorrow, sickness here! ever the grasshopper at last, a burden, and all things chafing and wearying a Spirit...

Page 2

...made sensitive by disease. There is beauty, light, peace, a Saviour's welcome, reunion with the dearly loved ones gone before. The Heaven he loved to think and talk about here, and which is now a blissful reality.

This was a subject in which we had much close and interesting conversations together, and I have listened with reverence and delight to your Father's descriptions of the glorious things in store for those who are truly children of God. How his eyes would light and how animated his expression, and he gave his fancy full flight in picturing the divine order. The perfect enjoyment, the ever developing wonders of eternity. I can't tell you how happy it made me feel today, when memory brought back those interviews, to think that he was at last transported to that lovely region, where with your dear mother again he sees the fulfillment of his long cherished hopes and desires.

But, dear friend, I know I feel how great your affliction is – and my tears and sympathy are yours. I know what it is to lose a father and my heart aches with yours. I had a deep and tender affection for him who has just gone and I mourn him as I would a near and dear relative, connected as he had been with all our life in Amherst. Both Mr. Tuckerman and I feel as though there was a void there now, that never could be filled.

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I thank you dear Miss Mary, for your goodness in writing to me so soon. And pray given my acknowledgments to your sister Mrs. Charles Hitchcock for so kindly sending me word of the funeral this

morning. We went over to the United States this afternoon, but she had left as we were not surprised to hear.

I hope that you will write me soon and give me some account of your father's last days. Everything will be of interest to me. If I can serve you in any way here let me know.

My love to you sisters and family. Mr. Tuckerman desired his regards and his deep sympathy in yours loss.

Every affectionately Yours,

L. E. L. Tuckerman

Letter 250

[EH to Willard, 18 September 1845, EOH, Series 14, Box 26a, Folder 48]

[Edward Hitchcock to John A. Willard]

Amherst, Mass. Sept. 18th 1845

John A. Willard Esq.

Sir,

We send our daughter Mary to Troy with the request that you will receive her into your school for a time – we have not decided how long – She will board with the Dr. S. L. Bardwell with whom she is acquainted. We have no doubt you will find her disposed to do all she can in the way of study: but we have found that close attention to it always brings on poor health her constitution being very miserable. And therefore we crave for her as much indulgence as can be granted. We ought also to say that her abilities for study are not of the highest order and that she is very diffident. We are not so anxious to have her get over any particular course. We have thought of Physiology and Nature...

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...Philosophy as branches to which she might profitably attend but perhaps your lady upon enquiry can recommend a better course. She is very fond of flowers but I suppose the autumn will not be a favorable time for botany. She is a professor of religion in a Congregational Church and will probably prefer attending Dr. Beaman's church with Dr. Bardwell.

Mrs. H. and myself called a few weeks since at your seminary and saw your mother to whom I would thank you to make our respects.

Respectfully yours,

Edward Hitchcock

[Envelope:]

John H. Willard, Esq.

Principal of the Troy Female Seminary

Troy, N. Y.

[On edge]

Edward Hitchcock

[Nathaniel Beman was pastor for forty years of the First Presbyterian Church, Troy, New York]

Letters to and from Mary Lyon #251-253

Letter 251

[OWN and daughters Mary and Catherine to Mary Lyon, January 13, 1836, from, Board of Trustees Records, Mount Holyoke College Archives and Special Collections]

Wednesday January 13, 1836

Dear Miss Lyon,

This afternoon after getting our lessons we were to devote the rest of the afternoon in writing a letter as we promised. I miss you very much in our family here and especially in my studying. I have made considerable progress in my Latin I think. I have got to the 6th line on the eighty third new book page I think the verbs are very interesting as you said they would be. I think it is very pleasant to find out all the difficulties in studying which I am trying to do now. I think Latin is a very pleasant study, but I have not made much progress in knitting. I might have knit more at Mrs Smiths had I not forgotten to take some yarn with me.

I had a very pleasant visit at Mrs Smiths [sic] and enjoyed it very much. The term closes today and Papa has gone to Conway to give a course of lectures on Geology. Give my love to Miss Caldwell and tell her I shall write her soon. We have all enjoyed very good health since you left here. Jane says give my love to Miss Lyon and Miss Caldwell.

From your affectionate friend and pupil

Catharine Hitchcock.

Letter 252

[Orra Hitchcock and daughters, Catharine and Mary Hitchcock, to Mary Lyon (with transcript and notes to the letters), 13 January 1836, Board of Trustees Records, Mount Holyoke College Archives and Special Collections]

Wednesday Jan 13th 1836.

Dear Miss Lyon,

Edward and I have just finished reciting our lesson, Justitica est immortalis 39th page Second Edition. Today we studied 9 lines each by ourselves alone and recited without one failure. I like it better the more I study it. Last evening we all went to the exhibition at College and stayed till after 10 o'clock. The performances were very interesting. Give my love to Miss Caldwell.

from your affectionate friend and pupil,

Mary Hitchcock.

Wednesday eve.

I have let the children write right and as you gave them such full license to write as they pleased, I shall permit them to send it on, otherwise I should think it proper to rewrite & correct.

I am glad you enjoyed your visit so highly at Mr Avery's – I knew you would – your letter from Greenfield I received also & have attended to your request.

The Biblical Repository for January was sent here for you – what shall I do with it? Shall I send it to you by mail or what shall I do with it?

It contains Mr Stuart's article against Geology. Mr Hitchcock has laughed over it considerably – he is doubting some whether to answer it or not – he says he is afraid he can hardly resist the temptation to make him appear very ridiculous in answering some of his arguments – he discovers such entire ignorance of the subject.

I have got along with the childrens latin thus far better than I feared – I have not kept a bill, but they have understood that a faithful report was to be sent you & that has acted as a very powerful stimulus.

We do miss you in our family very much but you may tell Miss Caldwell that I have some consolation in thinking that what is my loss is her gain.

Jane speaks of you quite often – In saying her prayer the other evening, as she has been taught to say, Bless Pa and Ma and Mary, Catharine & Edward, and every body. Mrs. Barnes was in the room – she says, "and Mrs. Barnes too" – then said I, will you not bring in Miss Lyon too – "O yes, she says , & Miss Caldwell & Miss Grant too."

The great anti Slavery meeting has been holden at Northampton today -- It continued four or five hours & they made great speeches & passed resolutions and formed a county society &c. Husband did not go.

It is currently reported here that Mrs. Washburn the teacher is going to marry Mr. Lathrop of South Hadley Canal.

Pray write soon -- your very sincere friend

OWH

Orra White Hitchcock

I do not know but we shall be obliged to part with Prof. Park yet, for Dr Woods has been here to get him to go to Andover to fill that vacant professorship–

Address: Miss Mary Lyon Norton Mass

Letter 253

[Mary Lyon to Catharine and Mary Hitchcock, 8 February 1836, Mary Lyon Collection, Mount Holyoke College Archives and Special Collections]

Ipswich, Feb 3, 1836.

My dear Mary & Catherine,

You will be surprised to see my letter dated at this place. I came here last Friday to spend a few weeks. Your very welcome letter of Jan. 15 I received. I did hope that I should have received your second before I left Norton. Miss Caldwell will forward it to me. You may hereafter direct to this place till you hear from me again. I am greatly interested in your progress in Latin. I scarcely realize that you had had time to go so far. I carefully compared your statement with the book so as to see how far it was, & I am now using the New England privilege of guessing how far you will pay in your rent that you have proceeded. I hope I shall hear very soon. I like to be making a little calculation for you from week to week. I doubt not that your letter will enable you to improve very much in perseverance. If you make a special effort to learn your lessons every day so promptly & reasonably, that you can depend entirely on yourselves, not rendering it necessary that your mother should ever remind you, it will tend very much to improve you in promptness, and perseverance. From the time that you receive this, will you both observe yourselves particularly on this point, & tell me in your next how you succeed? I should like to know if you cannot have that moral power over yourselves, & that entire control, so that you will always think about your lessons so that no one will have to remind you. I doubt not that on this point you can succeed perfectly. Mary, I am exceedingly gratified, that you & Edward should have succeeded in studying one lesson of 9 lines by yourselves, & reciting without a failure. I hope you will do such things very often, it will so encourage your mother. I often think of your dear mother. I almost fear that the care of your studies with all her other business will be too much for her strength. Do you not fear so? If she should be sick next summer, how sorry we should all be.

Dear Edward,

I have been thinking how many ways you can help your mother, & comfort her so that she will not be so very tired every night. I was going to write some of the ways, but then I wanted you should think yourself. I want you should write me a few lines in the next letter, or let Catherine write for you, & mention how you think you can your mother. What can you do and what can you avoid that will comfort the heart of your mother. I do not think, Edward, that there is any one of the four children that can do more things to comfort your mother than you can. Sometimes when a little son does any thing which any duty it makes a mother feel so sorry that she does not get over it for a whole day. If he continues to do such things, it may make her quite sick. But when he does every thing he can and is very careful and does not forget things, and learns his lessons well, & behaves well, & tries to do just right, he makes his

mother so glad, that it is almost enough to make her well, if she is sick. After I left Amherst, before I went to Norton, I went to see a little nephew of mine, that I have not seen before for five years. He is just about your age and has no father nor mother. But God has kindly taken care of him and given him a home, where he has good care.

Catherine, I shall be quite interested to know how the knitting comes on. I have been thinking that you & Mary were just at the right age to make great improvement in character & habits, specialty in manners, and expect when I have not seen you for several weeks that I shall see a manifest improvement. How is it about your promptness in rising in the morning, in setting the table, in promptness about meals, etc. I want to hear from you once in two weeks, till I see you again, when I shall expect that Mary & Edward will have gone almost through the book, a Catherine quite through.

Wy affectionate regard to your parents. They will be interested to learn that a large number of Miss Caldwell's scholars have become hopefully pious, & that there is now a very interesting revival in the town of Norton.

My letters may be remailed and directed to this place. In my friendship letters, I like better to have one word of 4 letters left off, & I shall set you the example. When I write on business about trunks etc., I put it on. Please to omit that word in your next.

Your sincere friend,

Mary Lyon

[In margin]

I have not forgotten dear Jane, that I filled my page without her name. You may give her as large a portion of my love as to anyone.

Address: Miss Mary Hitchcock, care of Rev. Prof. Hitchcock, Amherst, Mass.

Letters to and from Hitchcock Siblings #254-258

Letter 254

[Emilia Hitchcock to EH, 19 May 1819, PVMA Library, Hitchcock Family Papers, Box 2, Folder 8]

Deerfield May 19 1819

Dear Brother

Mother wishes me to write you concerning her lameness she thinks it is no better it is very troublesome & she feels almost discouraged about its getting well she wishes you to be more particular in your next letter with how you enjoy yourself & how your health is, whether you are homesick & what you give for washing &c &c -

Miss Jackson has received a letter from Miss O White written in a most melancholy strain it was dated the 1st of May. Can you guess the cause? probably by this time she feels more resigned to her loss. Anne Saxton Miranda Wright & Rebecca Jackson have gone to Amherst to day to spend the night with Miss White. Nathaniel Boyden has taken your room at Widow Williams [Possibly Eunice Williams, widow of John Williams who died in 1816; or Mary Williams, wife of Isaac who died in 1807] & boards with her you probably will hear of Mrs Leavits disappointment concerning the college Mrs Howard (Ann Williams) has been in town quite unwell she has had several turns of spitting blood & appears to be going into a consumption her friends are quite alarmed about her this I think shows us the uncertainty of all earthly enjoyments. this letter I think may be called a summary of domestic news very interesting to a Science or Mineralogist a Botanist or Chemist an Astronomer & a Master of Arts I had forgotten to tell you that a Mr F Cannon student at Williamstown called & left a letter & a few specimens of minerals for you from Jonathan Dewey which we intend to send you by Harry

[& Charles if they go to New Haven Miss Jackson expects to keep school in the hall & board at Widow Wells the whole school is to be under her care and she may employ ushers]

[Charles is going to court next week a Grand Juryman]

Emilia H

Saturday Morning 22

We received three letters from you by yesterdays mail but have not time to answer them as we have an opportunity to send what we have written to Jonathan Leavitt to day I am obliged to you for your generous offer but think if I live to be old & needy I shall need your assistance more than I do at present George Arms continues much as he was when you left here Anne & Miranda returned home without seeing Orra she was gone to Boston I would hire mending if I could possibly do without

[Emilie Hitchcock]

Letter 255

[Charles and Henry Hitchcock to EH, 22 May 1819, PVMA Library , Hitchcock Family Papers Box 2, Folder 8]

Deerfield Saturday 22nd May 1819

Dear Brother,

Your friendly epistle came to hand this morning. I embrace an opportunity to send a few lines. We pass on here much in our usual way. Some questions concerning roads agitate the Town Meeting and another concerning turning the river has made some difference of opinion. A meeting has been called to consult together on that subject. The result was to petition the county for a Lottery to carry into execution the turning. Our religious concerns are low very low. We yet keep up the form of the meeting in season and out of season, but where the power is I am at a loss to determine. I would not be understood to think there is no religion among us for I verily think there is some, but such coldness, indifference and backwardness as is perceivable argues at least that if the Spirit is willing the flesh is not only weak but criminally cold and lifeless. A great work is yet going on at Northampton. George Wells has made us a visit he is all alive in the work – one would think his conduct would have some effect on his former companions here – but strange is that blindness which sin has brought from the children of nature. I am sorry to hear of your ill health hope when you get your studies regulated and more acquainted with the plan you will feel more at home and consequently enjoy yourself better. I once lived at Windsor not in so favourable circumstances as yours and perhaps I know something of the feelings of a stranger in a strange place. Our constitutions are such that we must not expect permanent health therefore we must be on our guard and arm ourselves against depression [?]. We know there is one that is able to support us when “Awake, asleep, at home and abroad.” [A line from a popular hymn by Isaac Watts, early 18th century]

I have not time to write one half of what I wish as Mr. Eastman goes immediately for Amherst. There is now a prospect of Charles and myself visiting you the last of this month or for part of next. Some unknown thing may prevent this do not depend on it too much. My life has been tolerable since you left me with the exception of one or two painfull days. Betsey thinks Mrs. Judson acquainted with Eunice (?) and not her perhaps if she once see her and was acquainted with her it was before either was married. Please to write me whenever you can spend time.

Your friend and Brother

Henry

Envelope: Mr. Edward Hitchcock, by Mr. Eastman, New Haven, Conn.

[Henry Hitchcock was ten years older than Edward; he married Betsey Kimberley ca. 1811 and the couple lived in Deerfield. They had four children. Betsey had a younger sister named Eunice.]

Letter 256

[Charles Hitchcock to EH, 16 January 1833, PVMA Library , Hitchcock Family Papers Box 2, Folder 8]

Deerfield Jan 16th 1833.

Dear Brother, I enclose you one dollar from Col. Wilson for the pamphlet you left with me for him – he wishes you to send him another like that – I believe – for Rev. Mr. Coleman of this town . Also, Wilson wants you should send him one of the next edition when they are ready for sale.

Your letter by Mr. Lyman I recd. – and should be pleased to assist him to a school – but there is no prospect of this town, or those near us, that I can find by enquiry of putting up a Singing School this winter. I was much pleased with his appearances.

Mother is yet comfortable – Brother's family are well – I am very well – and thank you for giving me advice not to take so much medicine 20 months ago. Our family too are well. And I do think if this good health continues – and the snow stays upon the ground it will not be one half century before I see you at your own houses.

Our respects to sister Orra – and love to the children. Yours with much good will.

C. Hitchcock

Letter 257

[Charles Hitchcock to EH, 1 February 1833, PVMA Library , Hitchcock Family Papers Box 2, Folder 8]

Feb 1st 1833

I expected to have sent the letter by young Trask who lives with Mr. Boltwood – but failed. We feel anxious about little Edward it is an obstinate disorder – his visit here last summer – attached me very much to him – I hope you both are prepared for every trying event that you are called to meet with in life.

We are in good health – and have great occasion for thankfulness, for this best of temporal blessings.

I was chosen delegate to go to an installation with Mr. Fessenden – but declined it.

We shall expect to hear from you by Henry.

We repeat our good wishes for you and your family and wish we could visit you in the time of your present trouble.

C. Hitchcock

Envelope: Proff. Edward Hitchcock, Amherst

[Charles Hitchcock married Lois Baker in 1821?; they had two children and lived in Deerfield. "Little Edward" refers to Edward, Jr., who would have been 5 years old. Mercy Hitchcock, their mother, would have been 78 years of age; she died a year later." Present trouble probably refers to Little Edward's illness; Orra lost a child on March 23, 1832.]

Letter 258

[EH to Henry and Charles, 12 July 1850, EOH, Series 2-B, Box 4, Folder 44]

Dublin, Ireland July 12th 1850

(For Henry and Charles Hitchcock)

Dear Brothers,

My thoughts have for several days turned with peculiar fondness towards my native land especially to the happy cottage where your lot is cast and I seize my pen to begin a letter although I do not find time to write half as much as I could write. As yet I have half a week as I could write. As yet I have sent only two letters to the N. York Observer know not when I can continue them although I have written enough to fill half a volume. I have been all the time either journeying or seeing sight in large extent and get to time that I cannot write at night. Darkness however does not come here till very late – It is now almost nine o'clock in the evening and yet I am writing by daylight and it seems ever time till nearly 10 o'clock.

I hope our children have given you some idea of our state and progress. We have been in England most of the time since our arrival. I have journeyed there some 800 miles and spent three weeks in London. Just as I was leaving for France I heard a request from Mr. Wilder of Boston (President of Massachusetts Senate) requesting me to visit the Agricultural Schools in Great Britain and on the Continent as you know our government are trying to start one. This request led me to alter my plans and I came over to Ireland day before yesterday for this purpose. Today I have been to see a model farm in this vicinity connected with a school. I never saw such expanses of wheat, oats and potatoes as are growing there. Some fields of potatoes they are digging and they appear very well, no sign of disease. I wish you could see the farms and the gardens in England: both their hedges or high stone walls covered with ivy instead of our wooden fences and every foot of land turned and cultivated. The roads also would be to you a great curiosity. I have rode over three hundreds of miles and never yet saw a rut more than an inch deep. They are as smooth and hard as a stone floor. The houses too are almost all of them both city and country built of stone and thick so that every things looks as substantial as the everlasting hills. Over the roads the stage coaches travel sometimes 8 or 10 miles an hour and yet you feel much safer than when going upon the roads of Massachusetts. I have traveled a good deal by railroad and sometimes fast enough – 53 miles in 53 minutes! I presume also that we have passed through 30 or 40 tunnels some of them nearly a mile through.

What shall I say of London except that it is the center of the world and it seems as if all the world were collected there. Some days I have travelled there 4 or 5 miles in one direction through streets with almost a continued line of houses and the same day gone as far in the opposite direction and yet on neither side have I reached the outer limits of the city. We got fairly tired out of staying there and riding in omnibuses day after day to see sights although many of them are very splendid. Indeed we have become quite weary of looking at things which at first excited deep interest. We have been in so many large places that gladly would we retreat into some solitude.

In going through Wales I kept in the book not for Uffcullumbe which as you know I was told was where the Hitchcock family originated, but I could not find it. Afterwards I found that it is in Devonshire. Had I known it I should have gone there: I have written to the clergymen of the place but as yet have had no answer⁴. I have however learnt that in the grave yard there may be seen the monuments of several of our name but the only living representative is one poor idiot girl.

I regret that you will expect me to day something about my health because I cannot give you a good account. I have suffered much since I left America – the voyage was dreadful and ever since I think all my complaints have been worse than when I was at home. But I try to born without running to the Divine Will. God has done wonders for us on our way in guarding us against the thousand dangers to which we have been exposed and is raising up proceeds for us. If in the matter of health he disappoints our hopes let us not complain; or should he now permit us to return try to persuade ourselves that this too will be best. It is a matter of great thankfulness that Orra's health continues at least as good as when at home.

You have heard a great deal of the wretchedness of the poor in Ireland. But could you see what they have for a day or two in the streets of this city you perhaps would be shocked exceedingly. I could not believe that human beings could be so disregarded and hopelessly unlike his many who who wander about these streets. I never knew what rags are till we came here. Oh I wish you could have just one glimpse of this country, and am sure you would be more grateful than ever that your lot is cast in such a country as the United States. You can form no idea of the hardships and privations of the common and poorer people all over Great Britain. It is full of splendid and noble institutions but it is also full of degradation and suffering and the condition of the masses seems hopeless, but yet I am afraid to have those changes take place that would better their condition much less Great Britain would be the seat of anarchy and her glorious institutions of learning and religion be destroyed.

Belfast Sunday afternoon. July 15th. We came from Dublin to this place yesterday 129 miles partly by railroad but partly by stage. The country looks pleasant and at this season the potatoes healthy and the other crops good though never on the land and road routes is poor. The huts along the way are of stone and thatched but they look in respect to the dust much like the shanties in the U. States and so do the people except that here you will see such examples of rags and of misery as you never yet heard. You are beset with beggars every where who stick to you like sticks and there is no way but to pass them by with a stern point. Yet I have never found it so hard to resist my feelings, which prompt me to give something. In all the large towns on the coast, I find ships from the U. States loading with emigrants.

This city looks more like a town in the U. States than almost every one I have seen. It was settled mostly by Scotchmen, Congregationalists, the number of Papists...

...here is comparatively small. I have heard the Presbyterian clergymen preach today. Their doctrines and manner was excellent. In general I am gratified with the Dissenters; their views and modes of worship differ but little from ours and it is gratifying in a strange land to find that the Spirit of the Gospel unites you at once to strangers. My plan is to go from this place some 50 or 60 miles to the north of Ireland to see some agricultural schools and the Giant's Causeway and returning to this place take a steamer for Scotland. Since I suffered so much in crossing the Atlantic, I have lost all courage; but I have no alternative but to go forward.

I will add a few lines to sister Emilia on this sheet with the request that you would send this letter to her. I would gladly say a great deal more but can only unite with Orra in affectionate remembrance to you and yours and to all who enquire for us and fervently pray that we may again see you in the flesh, but if that blessing be too great that we may meet in glory everlasting.

Most sincerely yours,

Edward Hitchcock

Belfast Sabbath evening, July 14th 1850.

Dear Sister,

I cannot suffer this opportunity to pass without saying a few words to you and remember gratefully your kind visit just before we started on our exile for exile I must still consider it as the most powerful one I ever endured. Thus far I have had as much of suffering as I anticipated and you know that was not a little. But I have also experienced many special memories which I did not expect. I did not expect to be carried without accident over so many thousands of miles by land and by sea; nor that God would raise me up so many kind of the deepest interest and service should I live to return. Hence it becomes me not to complain but to bless God for his mercies and to bow uncomplainingly to his will in the matter of health. If we can be permitted to return home it will be more than we deserve though a most desirable blessing. But if not the will of the Lord be done.

I wish we could see you an hour or two in order to give you some account of the many many things we have seen. Though so many that memory fails and we are wearied out with great cities and great sights. Queen Victoria, Prince Albert etc. we saw soon after our arrival; but we have seen a great many other persons and things of far brighter interest. Orra and I with Mr. and Mrs, Tappan have stood upon two of the highest mountains of Wales which to me were far more interesting than to be wandering through great cities even though some of them have streets of palaces. I have been received very kindly by the scientific men whom I have met. But poor Dr. Buckland is in a mad house and Dr. Mantell is very feeble though a very kind man. Dr. Smith also is too deaf to converse with and just left (see first page)...

[Page 1, along margin]

...his professorship at Stonerton. Orra unites with me in affectionate remembrance to your husband and children and other good friends in Conway. We have passed hence through Conway in Wales and were reminded of the American Conway. In Conway we passed over a river in a rail car through an enormous iron tube several hundred feet long. God bless you and yours here and hereafter. Farewell. E. Hitchcock

[Along margin, page 3]

We have not heard from our children since June 13th. Will you send them the enclosed note from Orra?

Envelope: Deacon Henry Hitchcock, Deerfield, Massachusetts, United States of North America

By the British Mail Steamer from Liverpool

Postmark: Belfast, July 16, 1850

Letter 259

[EH to Charles Lyell (photocopy), 17 December 1843, EOH, Series 2-B, Box 4, Folder 52. The original is in the Lyell Collection at the University of Edinburgh.]

Amherst December 17, 1843

E. Hitchcock

Dear Sir

I have delayed a long time to reply to your letter of last February, not because it was uninteresting or unacceptable. For I assure you it afforded me high gratification. At that time I had not heard of the facts respecting Dinornis: and I should as soon have thought of looking to the moon for light respecting the fossil footmarks, as to New Zealand. I have delayed a reply partly in the hopes that I might be able to state some new results connected with this subject, which at length have been brought into such a shape that they can be given.

I am much obliged to you, Mr. Owen, and Mr. Murchison, for your compliments to my moral in and respect to the tracks. I can only say that the phrenologists have always given me a large organ of obstinacy (I forget their name) and probably this had quite as much to do with the course I took as moral courage.

I am under great obligations to Mr. Murchison for his full and flattering account of the Ornithichnites in his anniversary address. On one of his points, however, I could wish his statement had been somewhat modified. He says (page 105) that in regard to the age of the beds containing the footmarks no decisive opinion has yet been expressed. A reference to see my report on the Geology of Massachusetts and to my Anniversary Address at Philadelphia [????] [????] [the bottom line is not readable].

Page 2

...least a decided opinion on this point, and that my opinions correspond with the suggestions of Mr. [????]. I have also encountered as much scepticism on this subject almost as concerning the tracks. You have indeed corrected our views so far as the Nova Scotia rocks are concerned and those of the Connecticut Valley may share the same fate. But if so I feel confident they will be carried lower down in the series, like those of Nova Scotia rather than higher.

The statements that have from time to time been made in the American Journal of Science, and those of Dr. Deane in his letter to Dr. Mantell, have led Mr. Murchison very naturally to suggest that the idea of the footmarks being those of birds originated with Dr. Deane and was the result of what he saw in the existing nature, that is a scientific examination. Had this been the case, I have done him injustice in not stating the fact. Dr. Deane did indeed first call my attention to the subject and for this I have given him full credit in all my published reports on the subject. He also said (I quote him from his first letter to me)

in describing one of the slabs containing tracks, that "one of them is distinctly marked with the tracks of a turkey (as I believe) in relief." But he did not say this is a geologist for in the same letter he says "I am not a geologist"—nor was it the result of any careful examination of tracks. The opinion that these tracks were those of birds was a common one among the quarrymen who usually called them turkey tracks. I have in my collection a specimen found in 1802, and purchased by Dr. Dwight of South Hadley, because it contained bird tracks which he used facetiously to call those of Noah's Raven. Finding this to be the common opinion, I did not think any more of it because expressed by Dr. Deane who had not then attended to geology and therefore did not mention it: but went about an examination to see if it were true; and if I could prove it so, it seemed to me that could constitute the discovery. I sent the reclamation on this subject to the American Journal of Science but at Professor Silliman's earnest recommendation, I have withdrawn it. I wish however at least to give you a true statement of the matter. I ought to add that I am now and ever have been on the most friendly terms with Dr. Deane. I am glad to learn I would add that the fine slabs which he has found—if they must leave this country are going to the British Museum. I think they will most clearly [????] [????] often that need the tracks. It is...

Page 3

...only once in a great while that we can hope to fall in with something, and I trust that the Museum will not find that they have paid too dearly for them.

Since you were here, I have succeeded in uncovering something of those largest tracks which we visited—Northampton near Smith's Ferry, and I have had a slate 23 feet long quarried out and conveyed to my collection where it forms a most striking object. The tracks are very distinct, and the right and left foot most manifest very probably expanding a moderate sum, I might get out a similar slate with perhaps fewer tracks and should any society or museum in England wish, I would undertake it. I am sure I could get at other localities slabs of other species if desired. I wish I could find someone in England to exchange with one or some of the fossil footmarks of England or Scotland.

During the last summer I have discovered the coprolites of the animals that made the tracks in the valley. I put specimens into the hands of Dr. S. L. Dana of Lowell, who you know is one of our most skillful analysts. He has devoted to them great care and attention, and obtained most interesting results. Not only has he proved them to be coprolites, but has discovered in them the uric acid. Their composition is water, organic matter, urate and volatile salts of ammonia 10.30; chloride and sodium 0.51; sulfates of lime and magnesium 1.75; something of lime and magnesium 39.60; carbonate of lime 34.77; silicates 13.07. Using a most ingenious train of reasoning, he has made it very probable that this coprolite could not have been the droppings of reptiles, serpents, or even of purely carnivorous birds but most likely of omnivorous birds. What a curious (it were it was not such a substance I should say what a beautiful) argument in confirmation of all of those from other sources as to the origin of the tracks! I hope to bring it out in all its details at the meeting of the Geological Association next spring.

I regret that I did not call your attention to a slab in my collection, 3 or 4 feet long, containing infusions from the Hamilton Group of the New York System of rocks. When I obtained it from the valley of the Hudson several years ago, I suggested that it contained tracks of some sort but the New York geologists exclaimed so loudly against it that I shut my mouth, lest by contending about a doubtful case I should bring still stronger doubt over the ornithichnites. But after reexamination of that slab I am almost prepared to attempt to prove it to contain a Crustachnites. The evidence is by no means very strong; the evidence yet it seems to me too plausible to be neglected. Could I make out this case I had supposed

till recently that it would be an example of tracks lower down in the rocks than had been found. But I see that you and Mr. Logan have anticipated me by finding tracks in the Silurian rocks of Nova Scotia.

I am glad to see that you are giving your opinion upon several points in the geology of our country and am particularly under obligation for your paper on Mather [????]. I hope you will continue to bring out [????] [????]...

Page 4

...[????] [????] I have been teaching [????] conglomerate or volcanoes get about with [????] [????] results from Smith ferry in Northampton and think it is likely considerable light upon the relative age of the [????] and trap in this valley.

Mrs. Hitchcock and myself desire to be respectfully remembered to the companion of your geological overseers and of the journey of life – Mrs. Lyell. May you both live long and bless each other and to trace out the wonders of geology.

Respectfully and sincerely yours

Edward Hitchcock

Envelope addressed to Charles Lyell, 16 Hart St., Bloomsbury Square, London, England

Letter 260

[EH to Charles Lyell (photocopy), 30 August 1860, EOH, Series 2-B, Box 4, Folder 52. The original is in the Lyell Collection at the University of Edinburgh.]

Amherst Mass. August 30, 1860

Dear Sir

To three years ago I sent you a copy of my Illustrations of Surface Geology but I learned afterward that it never got beyond Boston. I therefore take the opportunity of sending another copy of the second edition just out, by my oldest son, Edward, whom I believe you met but may not probably recollect when you were in this country. You may remember him as the discover of the Clathropteris in Easthampton (where he has been ten years instructor in Chemistry, Geology, and Anatomy) which has an important bearing upon the age of the footmark sandstone...

Page 2

...in the Connecticut Valley. He has found a new locality which throws new light upon this fern. He hopes to spend a portion of the coming winter in London if he can be allowed to study comparative anatomy in the Thurstonian Museums, and Geology in the other great collections of London. Any assistance you can render him in these objects will be most thankfully received. He carries with him most of the bones of a

reptile found in the footmark sandstone of Springfield since you were in this country in order to get the opinion of Professor Owen upon them.

Last year I sent you a copy of my Ichnology of New England which may or may not have reached you through Scribner and Company, Paternoster Road. I have to acknowledge also with thankfulness the receipt of your valuable papers on the lavas of Mount Etna. I am glad to see that you still keep the hammer and the quill going so successfully.

Myself and youngest son Charles (whose name you may have seen connected with several papers read before the American Association of Science) have been engaged for several years in a study of the rocks of Vermont. And we have become fully converted to the doctrines of metamorphosis as developed by yourself Birchhoff and others. The white limestone of western Vermont and Mass. we hope to be able to show is of Devonian age. We have found clear examples of the conversion of conglomerate into syenite and granite. We have found dykes of trachytic porphyry which present...

Page 3

...certain evidence that they have never been sufficiently heated to drive off the carbonic acid from limestone. But perhaps the most interesting metamorphism is the conversion of quartz ore conglomerate by the elongation and flattening of its pebbles into micaceous and talcose schist, the quartz pebbles becoming changed into the quartz folia of the schists, and the cement into mica or talc and every step of this process is shown most distinctly in the ledges. Oh that your eyes could rest on them on those ledges! for our geologists (except those of Canada) will doubtless refuse to adopt our conclusions. But there is no escape from them as it seems to me. Perhaps my youngest son may go to Europe next season and he having seen the whole can give you the details which he has hands you this this cannot because he has not seen the localities.

Respectfully yours

Edward Hitchcock via

Label: By Edward Hitchcock Junior MD

Sir Charles Lyell FRS DCL etc. etc.

London

Professor Hitchcock November 21, 1860

Footmark sandstone white limestone West Virginia

Letter 261

[Charles H. Billings to Jane Hitchcock, 28 February 1864, EOH, Series 1-D, Box 2, Folder 7]

Troy February 28, 1864

Your letter containing the sad news came to me last night. My dear cousin Jennie I wish that I might tell you how sad it makes me to write your name orphan. Our life experiences are similar death took our Mothers first and left our fathers feeble and sad that we might minister unto them a little while and as we saw them suffer and fade away we might be more willingly give them up. I must say the news of your father's death was to me sudden. He has been so long feeble I had felt that possibly he might...

Page 2

...last much longer.

I want very much to be with you on the day of the funeral. I am so situated in my business I fear that it will be impossible for me to leave Troy. My partner is away and will not be back until late Monday night and possibly not until Tuesday. I shall however make an effort to go but if I do not make Amherst Tuesday morning you need not look for me. Dear Tillie will go with me if I can go.

Tis a lonely Sabbath to you dear Jennie. I know the sad experience of my father's death was so full of loneliness – not one left to look up to and say My mother...

Page 3

...My father. Long will dear find comfort only in looking with the eye of faith beyond the river of death to the home where reunited stand Father and Mother and they will not have forgotten their children God gave them.

Tis consolation to me Jennie that all our sainted ones begin in Heaven a perfect life the perfect mind is developed and perfect love is manifested and will these perfected faculties be less employed? I think not and Jennie: think of the numbers of kindred there and think of the glorious reunion bringing all those brothers and sisters together for as they did in Christ so in Christ shall they all be made alive. He who bought him with His blood they will mutedly...

Page 4

...join in singing praises unto.

These thoughts will sweeten this cup of your sorrow and for his tis a happy and glorious exchange. While the sorrow and loneliness all are ours.

It does not seem possible that all the Hitchcock family are gone. Mother's death broke the charmed circle on Earth. Your father's completes the same circle in Heaven.

My sympathizing love to Mary, Emily, Edward with his family, Charles also and Kate with you?

Say to Emily I shall write her in a few days if in the morning I find I cannot go. Tillies desires he love and sympathy she will write if we cannot go. Again my love dear Jennie – with warmest sympathy from your attached Cousin.

Charles HB [Charles H. Billings]

Letter 262

[Harriet to Jane Hitchcock, 3 March 1864, EOH, Series 1-D, Box 2, Folder 7]

Pittsfield 3rd March 1864

My dear Jennie –

I am writing to you but my heart is with you all this day and I have been gathered with you this [????] time in the house—which hope of death has so glorified and hallowed. I have been sitting with you in that peaceful place when much [????] ship has faltered—from which...

Page 2

...hour ever makes to rock. How blessed that you can follow the lives, take with them that vision of faith you have them reunited after this brief parting. Seeing the mystery beyond—what has been that satisfied that in Jesus are all one. What to be faithful him is by him in Paradise . “This day this heavenly view of this unselfish hour in your heart, for your parents, such help you must all the bitterness, loneliness and orphanage that is yours. And God will help you.

[Along gutter] I have been in my house less than a week.

Page 3

I have thought so often of your most attraction this chastened home, those Saints and sometimes longed to pass all over of this long evening there's when always saw the suffering etherealized countenance of your father and his blue mild eyes—the central object in the house which I have often desired to tell him and you have sincerely in sympathized and asked the detail of the mastery life but have not written and this master is gone and he is gone and now I speak these poor words to you and hope they will not fall powerless of love and love and true sympathy in them.

Page 4

...each house. You were very kind to send the fine picture of your father and mother soon after my visit in Amherst. I then wished to send you one of Captain Bigelow immediately but I had none and waited a long time before any such but which I have ordered I have now a promise of one of myself which I will have with his soon as they are given me. I can but think Mrs. Storrs and Mr. will come on. It seems as if they must be there today—the pastry from his faith must be her answer true to his and him...

Page 5 [sideways along edge]

They will never part and then will meet when your plans are [????] what they are of with know embraces in Mary, Emily has he [????].

Sincerely yours
Sincerely, Harriet [Reigel?]

Letter 263

[Jeremiah to Jane Hitchcock, 25 March 1864, EOH, Series 1-D, Box 2, Folder 7]

Middletown Ct March 25 '64 [1864]

Miss Jane E Hitchcock

My dear friend,

The dark cloud is again upon your home. Your honored father is with the dead. I have been unable owing to absence from home to express to you the bereaved circle of which you are a member. My tender sympathies at an earlier hour. My heart went out and strong desires to mingle in the scenes of burial, this was denied me. How much of greatness, goodness, levelness, has passed from earth to heaven in connection with this event! What must the realities of heaven be, to one who could weave so much of that blessed mixed into the scenes of earth. I have never known one who seemed to have tastes all feted, to give him the highest enjoyment, on the very first entrance to heaven more than your excellent parents. In the harmony of nature, he had learned the promise of the creator. And grace had brought to his soul the sweet notes of the riser of life proceeding from the throne of God and the Lamb.

I remember of hearing him say, since some public address in New York, of...

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...some of the old writers that he loved, of the Baxter and Flavel school, that they seem to have come in their holy living so near to heaven, as to be able to pluck the fruits of paradise from the boughs, which are serving the walls. He happily described his own life by the figure. For him to live not Christ and to die in Jesus. He has realized the desire to depart which moved his soul during these later months of suffering. It is impossible for me to realize the great change which death has wrought in the circle of your home love; that the parents who so often released me as a guest to their choice abode I shall see

no more. You have no difficulty in realizing the tender reality. All things about you say that it is so. Hence we turn from a world with loathing where such changes make us sick at heart! Nay, rather, how we long to live for Christ, where he lasts, so that he may at least administer unto us and abundant entrance into his everlasting kingdom. May the blessing of Him who does not willingly afflict or grieve the children of men be with you in these sad hours and comfort evermore. Please convey my sympathy to your brothers and sisters and believe me,

Yours in sorrow,

Jeremiah [Taylor?]

Letter 264

[Unknown to Jane Hitchcock, 4 March 1864, EOH, Series 1-D, Box 2, Folder 7]

[Much of this letter is illegible]

South Hadley March 4

Friday morning

My dear Jennie,

I never did a harder thing than to leave Amherst Monday without seeing of any of you. I looked with longing eyes at your house but the carriages standing there prohibited my stopping for a moment. I knew you both passed strength all you could bear and if and no kinship to try fighting further. But I so longed to tell you how deeply I signified with him him Sarah True for his [????] great. I'm have software they enrich bereavement-our hands home is really indeed deflated but for now advance the loss for control and God answers [????]the nights of the [????] [????] [????] ...

Page 2

...To stifle this suffering to call his [????] I think of all our children [????] Jennings at [????] something enjoying the loss of Christ. And think affectionally of others [????] inasmuch as is [????] of the [????] such there while living hot seemed as if heaven could kindly solidify our longing left to pride in the [????] [????] before the [????].

Good comfort and one of promising [????] [????]to Mary and Emily. I want to see you all so much and for [????] [????] [????]and I [????] my afflictions for [????] with father. He cannot find a [????]

Page 3

I thank you for the [????] my affliction my dear Christian dad. I remember to this [????] from [????] I. But felt heavy hearted [????]

Page 4 [sideways]

...kind to leave this my only home but father's business is my chief concern with and I want to [????][????][????]. I may [????] [????] [????]

Additional Letters of Edward Hitchcock #265-296

Letter 265

[EH to Adams, 14 May 1855, EOH, Series 2-B, Box 4, Folder 16]
Amherst May 14th 1855

Dear Sir,

I regret that distracting cares and labours have led me to delay so long answering your letter respecting Mr. Adams. It has not been because I was unwilling to bear testimony in his favour. For while here his conduct was highly exemplary his deportment amiable and gentlemanly and his scholarship and attainments of a high order. Since he left I am told he has had much success as a teacher and I do not doubt but he would fill worthily and successfully the place you mention in Newburyport.

Very truly yours,

Edward Hitchcock

Letter 266

[EH to Samuel Morton, 6 August 1832; originals at American Philosophical Society; images from BiodiversityLibrary.org]

Amherst August 6, 1832

Dear Sir

After long delay in consequence of a pressure of duties I have put up the following specimens.

No. 1,2,3,4,5,6 clays – Gay Head – Martha's Vineyard.

No. 7. White sand and clay No. 89 greensand and Clay . Ditto No. 10 lignite

Nos. 11,12,13,14,15,16,17,18,19,20,21,22 alcyonites? Viz. form green sand mostly some of them are converted into argillaceous iron one and others into free iron ore with clay. They seem loose in the sand and clay and most of them appear to have been more or less rolled.

No. 23. Whether alone or in alcyonite. Leave you to determine. It appears to be converted into capillaceous iron ore and yet the mass is highly bituminous. Rolled masses of a conglomerate of similar character were found in the green sand.

Nos. 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29. Vertebrae of different animals mostly in a quartzose conglomerate which is interstratified for the most part with the clays and sand at Gay Head. All of the beds having inclination nearly north of 50° to 60°. Some of the bones you will see are even converted into iron ore.

Nos. 30, 31 fragments of bone some of them obviously water worms.

Nos. 32 and 33 Ditto. One of them pierced with holes; the other with a fragment attached of bone. Or what is it?

No. 34. Part of a real rib belonging to the vertebrae No. 24.

Nos. 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41. Teeth of sharks etc.

No. 38 is from green sand and exhibits two quite small teeth proceeding from a jaw bone.

Nos. 43, 44, 45, 46. Fossils made from the green sands. Obviously water warm.

Nos. 47, 48, 49, 50, 51. Fossil shells: the mineralizer appears to be indurated clay or clay ironstone in clay colored by iron.

No. 52. A shell embedded in free iron ore.

No. 53. Shell found 40 feet below the surface in Nantucket.

Nos. 54 and 55. Ditto. Water born in the diluvium of the same island.

No. 56. Fossil from the sand beds cemented by iron Nantucket.

Nos. 57, 58. Impressions of leaves on the argillaceous oxide of iron. This iron was in a nodule found in the clay (on the larger as you can see them) of the plants.

Nos. 59 and 60. A vegetable relic in argillaceous oxide of iron. This was probably the seed vessel of some resinous plant for you will see that a part of it is converted into amber!

Nos. 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66. Alcyonites? Crabs? Etc. from green and ferruginous clay.

No. 67. Apparently a tusk converted into salacious slate from clay.

No. 68. A branching coral probably in a peculiar bituminous conglomerate that occurs in roll masses in the green sand.

No. 69. Bones and lignite in conglomerate.

No. 70. Rock of an oolite character slightly effervescing with acids were at the cliffs Gay Head.

The preceding specimens are all from Gay Head Martha's...

...Vineyard exit a few specimens noticed as from Nantucket. I have ventured to put into the box a number of fossils from other places with the request that you will name them. In general they have been sent to me without names and there are no means in New England of studying them nor any gentleman who has anything more than a general knowledge of the subject. If not convenient for you to comply with my request I hope you will excuse the application. Most of the numbers are placed on the specimens fraction wise – such being the manner in which I arrange the specimens in my cabinet.

I have tried hard for ten years past to obtain by exchanging for minerals a collection of fossils but neither in Europe nor this country have I found much encouragement. I can furnish nearly all the minerals of New England and a few fossils. Perhaps you know of some quarter where I could obtain petrifications on such terms. Do you know whether any of the collections put up in Heidelberg Germany have been received in this country? I suppose however that those cannot be obtained by exchange.

Nos. 71, 72, 73, 74. From the slate accompanying the anthracite coal in Rhode Island.

Nos. 75, 76, 77, 78 and 41/250. Ichthyolites in bituminous shale of the new red sandstone Sunderland. I suppose these belong to the genus Palaeothurium though perhaps the last named specimen is another genus. I suspect there may be three species among those sent.

No. 79. Remains of fish and vegetables – same rock Sunderland.

Nos. 80, 81. Vegetable remains same rock Sunderland.

No. 41/253. I am in doubt whether the specimen contains a petrification or veins filled with argillaceous matter. South Hadley. New red sandstone formation.

Nos. 82, 83, 84, 85, 86. Organic remains from Lake Superior.

No. 87. A petrification from a tertiary formation in the Connecticut...

Page 3

...Valley. This is the only organic relic I ever found in this formation and I am very anxious to ascertain at least its generic name. Perhaps among the specimens are more than one species.

Nos. 41/3, 41/12, 41/7, 41/13, 41/5, 41/39 are from the coal region of Pennsylvania.

Nos. 41/21, 41/22, 41/9, 41/30 from English coalfields.

Nos. 41/80, 41/100, 41/102, 41/58, 41/92, 41/81, 41/105, 41/100, 41/85, 41/137, 88, 89, 90. From the chalk and green sand Eng.

No. 41/183 from England.

No 41/177 from Malta (Mediterranean).

All the remaining specimens of different parts of our own country chiefly New York and Ohio.

*No. 92. Bone of a bird? Cliffs of clay Martha's Vineyard

*No. 93. An osterma in a kind of trap rock! Amherst

I have sent the box to Hartford to the care of Mr. Thomas H. Brace, merchant, requesting him to forward it to Philadelphia by some coastal vessel and to give you information about shipment by letter. I shall be greatly obliged to you if you will send me a catalog of the names of the specimens in your opinion especially concerning those from Gay Head. The presence of the cholera between this place and Philadelphia and other circumstances will probably prevent my visiting your city at present. In the course of the autumn I hope to be there and must ask you to retain the specimens till you hear from me again.

The notice of my election as a member of the Academy of Natural Sciences has been received and I send to you my grateful acknowledgment for the favour. Perhaps I may request one of the young gentleman connected with our college from Philadelphia to call for the diploma.

If you would like to obtain specimens of any of the fossils I have sent be so good as to designate the number and I will do all in my power to obtain them for you.

Sincerely and respectfully

Edward Hitchcock

Envelope address: Samuel G Morton MD, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Return address Professor Hitchcock August 7, 1832

Postmark Amherst August 7

Letter 267

[EH to Samuel Morton, 2 July 1832; originals at American Philosophical Society; images from BiodiversityLibrary.org]

Amherst July 2, 1832 [Stamped in red: No. 83]

Dear Sir, you're very obliging letter of the 14th and 15th ult. Were duly received but a pressure of duties has prevented my reply earlier.

When I wrote you before I had just returned from Martha's Vineyard and had not received the fossils which I shipped from thence. Recently they have come to hand and I have just finished cleaning and examining them. And yet I am unable to answer all your enquiries. I had hoped by examining the specimens with your assistance to be able to settle several points yet undetermined. But I see no possibility of leaving home till September and I have determined to send you a suite of the formation ere long that is as soon as I can find time to select and pack them. I shall add such remarks to the labels as may seem necessary to render the situation and character of the specimens intelligible though I greatly fear that it will not be possible to give you an accurate account of all the circumstances under which they occur until I see you. I will thank you to retain the specimens until I see you or you hear from

me again. I shall send for them by the way of Hartford to the care of Thomas H Brace requesting him to far forward you the...

Page 2

...same by vessel.

It may not be possible for me to pay the freight the whole distance but I will reimburse whatever expense you may incur on this account when I see you.

I have had drawings taken of the principal specimens which I shall send but I think the fossils themselves will answer your purpose better. These drawings I intend to present to the government in the third part of my report on the geology which I am now preparing. And I beg leave here to say that as we have so few fossils in the state I am anxious to make as much of these as I can consistently do. I have traveled 400 miles on purpose to obtain them and it is my wish not to have any account of them published until they appear in my report. I feel however that you have strong claims of the use of them for your forthcoming synopsis and especially as I shall be so dependent on you for correctly naming them. I suspect however that you will not find anything among them very new or illustrative of your ingenious views of the ferruginous sand formation of the U.S. For I am more and more inclined to believe that the fossils from the Vineyard belong to a plastic clay formation or its equivalent. For none of them are chambered shells and the formation consists chiefly of highly inclined beds of white, blue, yellow, red and and green clays frequently mired with sand interstratified with strata of lignite several feet thick and gravel and ferruginous osseus conglomerate (the pebbles of the latter being quartz exclusively)...

Page 3

No marl occurs there if it be necessary that calcareous matter be present to constitute a marl, at least none of consequence. I found what I call a species of Venus or Tellina? A Tribo? several alcyonites a coral and several vertebrae and teeth of sharks in a green and ferruginous sand which file only one of the narrow beds in the clay and which are themselves in fact half clay as you will see by the specimens. In the conglomerate are the teeth of at least two species of shark and another mammal (perhaps crocodile) and numerous large vertebrae for those bones are considerably worn: and the remains in the green sand are so much worn in general as to lead me to infer (though not without some doubt) that they are the remnants of some earlier formation, especially as I found fragments of the peculiar puddingstone containing an alcyonite in that sand. The vegetable remains occur in the slaty clay ironstone forming concretions in the [????].

Having thus frankly stated to you my [????] in relation to these fossils I shall cheerfully send them to your care being confident that you will [????] my wishes concerning them so far as you are able. If any of them should throw light upon the subject which you have in hand I shall feel no obligation to your stating the facts in general provided that they are referred to my report for a more particular description.

Mr. Browne to whom you refer being at Nantucket and learning that I had gone to the Vineyard joined me there. His place of residence is Boston. But he is now on the tour of the lakes and I will not return until late in the autumn when he means to embark for Europe. He brought away only a few specimens from the Vineyard and probably would not be able to help you much in this matter. I shall be able

however to furnish you with specimens of nearly all the varieties which I shall send although I am obliged to make out five collections – from our government for...

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...each of the three colleges in the state and one for myself. But I laid in pretty largely of every variety that occurred in quantity. I will thank you to designate such specimens as you wish and will furnish them if possible.

I feel much indebted to you for your kind offer in relation to the subject. And particularly for proposing me as a member of the Academy. As you have been placed to speak favorably of the first part of my report I beg leave to say that I hope the scientific part will contain features more interesting to geologists.

Truly and sincerely yours,

Edward Hitchcock

Envelope address: Samuel G. Morton MD, Philadelphia Pa.

Return address: Professor Hitchcock July 2, 1832

Letter 268

[EH to Samuel Morton, 11 June 1832; originals at American Philosophical Society; images from BiodiversityLibrary.org]

[Letter stamped with red 82]

Amherst, Mass. June 11th 1832

Dr. Morton

Sir,

I have been for sometime engaged in the examination of the geology of Massachusetts under the direction of the government and have recently found a number of fossils in Martha's Vineyard or Nantucket in a formation which I suppose to be a certain section of that in New Jersey so ably described by you in the Journal of the Academy of Natural Sciences and the American Journal of science. They consist of bones and teeth in conglomerate and of bones shells and zoophytes in green and ferruginous sands: also vegetable remains in red and argillaceous oxide of iron. As I am but little acquainted with fossil geology I have scarcely no means in New England for instituting a comparison between those which I have found and specimens from other parts of the country and Europe. I write you at this time to enquire whether you can consistently render me some assistance in this matter. I wish if possible in the current course of a few weeks to come on to Philadelphia with the specimens provided you can

assist me in their examination. Or if it should not be in my power to go could you, sir, look over the specimens and name them provided I should send them to you?

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I may not be able to leave here till September or October. Should you probably be in Philadelphia at that period?

Probably the specimens which I have found are less perfect than those you have described and certainly they are far less numerous but I have been struck with their general resemblance to those from the Cretaceous group of Europe. But to whatever geological formation they belong? I feel quite desirous to determine their characters since they are almost the only examples of fossils in Massachusetts.

A line in the subject would be very respectfully received from you Sir.

By your friend

Edward Hitchcock

Letter 269

[EH to Samuel Morton, 1 October 1832; originals at American Philosophical Society; images from BiodiversityLibrary.org]

[Letter stamped with red 80]

Amherst October 1, 1832

Dear Sir,

Within a few weeks past I have discovered several new organic remains in the Connecticut Valley which appear to me quite interesting and which I take the liberty of forwarding to you with a request that you will favour me with their names. I trust you will excuse this request in view of the difficulties with which I am surrounded in respect to the study of this part of geology. The numbers are a continuation of those I sent you some time ago.

Nos. 94, 95, 96. Ichthyolites from Sunderland

No. 97. A vegetable relic from the same place. Is it terrestrial or marine—phenagamous or cryptogamous? It is from the new red sandstone group of De La Beche.

No. 98. A most remarkable vegetable from the same group in West Springfield. I found it in the slate eleven feet in length and two in width and have no reason to conclude this to have been the real size. It is remarkably uniform in its appearance in every plant of the rock.

Nos. 99, 100, 101, 102, 103, 104. From a bed of fetid limestone in the new red sandstone group at West Springfield.

Nos. 105, 106, 107, 108. From a bed of semi plastic limestone...

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...in Bernardston which I had supposed to be primary.

Nos. 109, 110. From Turners Falls, Gill, on a member of the new red sandstone group. I am in doubt whether this is a petrification or a concretion.

Nos. 111, 112, 113, 114. From one of the lowest beds of the new red sandstone group –perhaps the Rotliegendes of Germany – or even the old red sandstone

If you wish them I can furnish you with specimens of any of the above Nos. except perhaps the small fish.

I shall be greatly obliged to you if you can ere long give me your opinion as to these remains and those forwarded some time since as I am anxious to give some description of them in my report to the government which I am making out and in which I shall be happy to acknowledge my indebtedness to you.

I shall request the gentleman who takes the box to New York to put it on board a Philadelphia packet and note upon or within this letter the name of the ship...

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...etc. and send the letter by mail.

In much haste I remain truly and respectfully yours

Edward Hitchcock

No. 115. Mail from Pittsfield containing specimens of Phyrria, Planorcis and a bivalve. What are the species?

[In a different hand]

New York 6 October 1832

The box containing the specimens above alluded to were shipped this day on board the Philadelphia packet Schooner New York which is to sail tomorrow.

Jos. Pitkin

Letter 270

[EH to Samuel Morton, 28 October 1832; originals at American Philosophical Society; images from BiodiversityLibrary.org]

[Letter stamped with red 81]

Amherst October 28, 1832

Dear Sir,

I am much obliged to you for your "commentary" upon the fossils in your letter of the 14th instant. You think I have overrated your attainments in this department of knowledge but I assure you I should like to receive more commentary of the same kind. I could not expect indeed that you would be as familiar with the organic remains of the older rocks as with those to which you have given special attention with a view to publication. Still if you can give me only the generic names I shall be quite thankful. Since I wrote you I have received quite a number of European works on fossils such as Cuvier's great work on fossil bones, A. Brongniart's Vegetable Fossils, Parkinson etc. but I cannot find in any of them much light on the fossils which I sent you. Perhaps if I had Goldfuss I should be more successful

I have been disappointed in not being able to visit Philadelphia. This season. But I feel I must now give up the journey for the coming winter as I shall be clearly occu...

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...pied with duties in college. But I hope to come to Philadelphia ere many months. Yet as I want exceedingly to finish my report to the Government within two months you will greatly oblige me if you can send back the fossil specimens which I have forwarded you ere many weeks so that I may receive them before the Connecticut River is closed in. I will thank you to direct them to me at the this place and send them to Hartford to the care of Thomas H Brace. I am aware that I impose a great tax upon you but hope that in some way or other I may remunerate you. I should not be anxious to receive the specimens this fall did I not wish to take drawings of several of them to insert in my report and also place them in the collection I am making up for the government.

I have the Philadelphia edition of De la Beche's Manual and also the 2nd London edition. But I cannot find that he describes a quartzose conglomerate as a member of the plastic clays in England although he speaks of pebbles in it but he does not say that they are consolidated.

I accept very thankfully the first No. of Mr. Conrad's work on fossil shells. He must have a good share of courage to start such work and I sincerely hope he may be rewarded with success. I will thank you to enter my name as a subscriber. The work to be sent by mail.

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I hope I may obtain one or two subscribers in this part of the country.

If the bearer (Mr. Adams a bookseller in this place) shall call with this letter I will thank you to forward my diploma of membership in the Academy of Natural Sciences. Since I wrote you before I have received a few specimens of organic remains from Duxbury on the continent in the southeastern part of Massachusetts corresponding with those I sent you from Martha's Vineyard though found immediately beneath a thin solid stratum of ferruginous sandstone.

Sincerely yours

Edward Hitchcock

Letter 271

[EH to Samuel Morton, 26 January 1841, EOH; originals at American Philosophical Society; images from BiodiversityLibrary.org]

[Letter stamped with red 173]

Amherst Massachusetts January 26, 1841

Dear Sir

As chairman of the first meeting of the Association of American Geologists I have been directed to invite you to attend their second meeting, which will be held at Philadelphia, at the lecture room of the Academy of Natural Sciences, on Monday the fifth day of April next, at 10 o'clock in the forenoon. Hoping that you will be able to attend and to favor our meeting with a paper on some subject of geology, I subscribe myself,

Most respectfully,

your obedient servant,

Edward Hitchcock

Letter 272

[Richard Owen to EH, 30 August 1844, EOH, Series 2-A, Box 3, Folder 30]

College of Surgeons, London, August 30th, 1844.

Dear Sir,

I beg to acknowledge your friendly letter of 23rd July, which has just reached me. I have long been aware of the nature of the large birds nests by Cook and Flinders. Sir Robert K. Hughes was kind enough to write out an account of them for me soon after my first suspicions of a bird of extraordinary nature in New Zealand had been excited by the fragment of bone which I afterwards described in the Zoological Transactions in 1839. Independently, however, all of the...

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...different locality of the nests Mr. Gould's interesting description of "Birds of Australia" of the enormous ones built in common by the talegalla or Brush Turkey of Australia and by the Megapodus warns us of the danger of inferring too absolutely the size of a bird from that of its nest.

Nests constructed as Cook and Flinders describe cannot resist the action of the elements many years, unless annually repaired. It would be a very extreme hypothesis to suppose the nest seen by the circumnavigators to have been the enduring evidence of extinct species: but say that they were of comparatively recent construction and the work of existing species, if such species were terrestrial, semipinnate birds, of a bulk proportional to the nest, it is so improbable that such should have escaped observation and I have come to the conclusion that the great nests seen by Cook and Flinders belonged to some aquatic birds and ...

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...at all events are too remotely related to the discovery of the great Ornitholites of New Zealand to merit notice and enter into a rigid scientific attempt to construct the lost and feathered giants of that island.

I have forwarded by Messr. Putnam booksellers a copy of my paper on Dinornis to my respected correspondent Professor Silliman and a copy by a private opportunity to yourself: your beautiful discovery of the Ornithichnites has always been in my thoughts while working out the New Zealand bones. I honestly earnestly hope that...

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...you may yet be successful in obtaining some characteristic fossils from the same sandstones. Prof. Dana's skillful analysis has yielded a beautiful and most unexpected corroboration the accuracy of your original deductions of the class of animals to which the footprints belong. We must bear in mind however, that in all the Ovipara, with the cloaca, the urine blends with the excrement.

I remain, very truly yours, Richard Owen

Envelope address: Professor Hitchcock, Amherst, Massachusetts, United States, North America
Return address: Professor Owen, London

Letter 273

[Wells to EH, 6 October 1846, EOH, Series 2-A, Box 4, Folder 11]

[Wells 1826]

[This letter is very difficult to decipher. Most of the letter is a long quote from Journey to Ararat by Dr. Friedrich Parrot. I have taken the quote directly from the pdf of the book.]

Journey to Ararat (1826)
by Dr. Friedrich Parrot

Excerpts from pages 264, 265, 266, 267, 268. (at the foot of Little Ararat – Monastery of St. James)

[This is the original quote from Journey to Ararat, pp. 253-256.]

“I now thought that I might consider my journal of scientific researches on Ararat as closed, when accident led me to a new and important discovery. I had not yet visited the higher parts of the right-hand slope of the valley, exactly opposite to the monastery; and though I did not expect to find anything particular there, yet still I wished to take from that point a view of both the mountains, the sight of which filled me always with renewed pleasure and inward gladness.

I ascended, therefore, to a place lying directly south of the monastery, and 1946 feet above St. James, or 7280 feet above the sea, and just intended taking the position of Little Ararat more accurately with the compass, when I remarked that the needle, which for convenience of observation I had placed on one of the large rocks of lava, took a decidedly wrong position. I set the needle, therefore, in motion, and pushed it accidentally upon another part of the stone, and then I found that on the several points of the stone it took as many different positions; so that, within a space the size of the hand, the north pole of the needle pointed here to the north, there to the north-west, here to the east, there to the south, and, in short, to all the points of the horizon. There could be no doubt that I had got before me a magnetic rock. I hastened to try the other rocks in the vicinity, -for there were numbers of them lying around in all directions, -and discovered in many of them the same property. However much I was rejoiced at this discovery, yet I could not help feeling sorry that it was not made sooner, for it was worth careful investigation ; and at the same time the alarming thought started into my mind, that probably the stones round St. James, and the very walls of the church, possessed polarity, and that consequently my previous and laborious observations of the declination and dip of the magnetic needle were useless. Moreover, I could not see how I could find time to follow up this discovery, and to make good this loss, as M. von Behaghel was already gone, and from the necessity of making my barometrical observations contemporaneously with his, my hours would be all engaged until the moment of our departure, which was now settled on and close at hand. Yet I felt consoled on reflecting that I had observed the dip and bearing of the needle, not only within the monastery at an equal and considerable distance from the four walls, but also outside of the church repeatedly, and that these observations all agreed with one another. It soon appeared, also, on careful examination, that the hill near the monastery, where I had observed the magnetic declination, contained not a particle of the magnetic rock, but was covered with volcanic sand and alluvial earth, and with stones of the reddish, brittle kind of lava, which exerted no influence whatever on the needle. In the church, also, although I tested many of the stones with a very sensitive needle, I found in like manner not the slightest trace of polarity; and indeed these stones differed much in look and grain from the magnetic rocks.

In order to arrive at some more definite conclusions as to the way in which the magnetic force was distributed in those rocks, I placed my compass on the middle of one of them, the north point on the card being in a line with Little Ararat, which lay nearly due south, and, while moving the compass over the surface of the rock, chiefly in two directions, I observed the position of the north end of the needle. These observations I made with great care on seven stones, and noted them in my journal; but I here give the results only of those made on two stones. The outer line shows the figure of that surface of the stone on which the experiment was made.

These stones may have been three or four feet in diameter, but the points at which the needle passed from one position to another, as shown in the figure, were on an average not above half an inch asunder, so that the extreme or maximum deviations were comprised within an area about twice that of the hand, from which towards the edges the magnetic attraction diminished in all directions, and at the distance of a few inches beyond the stone it ceased altogether.

The rocks possessing this magnetic property were, in every instance which came under my observation, a blackish porphyry, with tolerably fine vitreous feldspar sprinkled through it, and with other unmistakable traces of volcanic action. All these masses were very hard and tough, so that I found it impossible to break off a piece exactly at the most effective part. I succeeded in breaking only some of the more angular stones, in which the magnetic action was weaker, yet strong enough to allow of two poles being plainly distinguished, and is even now sufficient, after the lapse of some years, to make the needle deviate fifteen or twenty degrees from its position, at a distance of some lines. In some stones of exactly the same characters externally, and lying close to those above described, I found no perceptible magnetic action; in others a very weak one, —perhaps, however, only because the most efficient part was turned downwards towards the ground. The external form had no influence on the magnetic property; I found roundish, angular, and flat stones, both with and without magnetism. But that all the rocks of the same kind certainly do not possess magnetic polarity, I convinced myself by observing many of them which lay on the rocky declivity quite exposed towards the valley, not one of which produced any effect; and the same remark applies to the blackish lava which is scattered far and wide in the bed of the river.

Professor Göbel has had the goodness to examine, with reference to the iron contained in it, a piece of this rock having its polarity very strongly developed, as well as another piece, exactly like the former in external characters, but wholly without the magnetic property; and he has found that both of them contain a considerable portion of this metal, that is to say, he obtained from the magnetic stone 10.7 per cent., from the non-magnetic 10.4 per cent. of oxide of iron. If thereon were to enter into the composition as protoxide, then these proportions would be respectively 9.58 and 9.33 per cent. In any case, this is again a very strong proof that, however combined with iron may be the general condition of magnetic polarity in minerals, yet that the measure in which this property is possessed, depends less on the quantity of the metal than on the degree of its oxidation, and the way in which it is combined with the other particles.”

Northampton October 6, 1846

Dr. and very dear sir,

I have been confined to my chambers ever since I was at your house with a bad cold and spasm upon the lungs but I have so far recovered as to copy for you a few excerpts from Parrot's Journey to Ararat respecting the inorganic rocks about which we have had some conversation and to which you can refer the Dr. and the society if he does you a justice in the matter. I shall be pleased to lend you book if you would like it.

I saw by a notice in some paper of the doings of the last meetings of the [????] Socy that there was a tax lien upon the members present of \$3. Am I not included and if so to whom shall I send my proportion?

My nerves are in such a state that I fear this will be unintelligible to you.

Most affectionately yours

S Wells

Letter 274

[Humphrey to EH, 14 January 1848, EOH, Series 2-A, Box 3, Folder 23]

Pittsfield January 14, 1848

Reverend and dear Sir

Perhaps I ought long before this to have apologized to you for my tardiness in preparing this tribute to Professor Fiske's memory, which the partiality of the trustees and faculty of your college prompted you and them to request. The truth is that when the request was made my time was so much pledged that I could not make the preparation by the close of your last term. Not encountering you at Mr. Condit's funeral I had hopes to state the case at the time to Professor Tyler, who thought it might be postponed to some convenient time in the winter time, and I understood him that he would confirm with you on the subject. A few days ago, I spoke to him again saying that I would endeavor to be ready as soon as might be desired and there the matter rests.

It is now so long since Professor Fiske's death that perhaps the contemplated notice may as well be omitted. If so, I hope you will not feel the least delicacy in saying so. It will save me considerable time, which finishing the discourse must require. If it is not too late for the discourse, you will do much favor to me...

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...by informing me as early as you can convenience will allow, about how soon you wish me to be prepared, but I may make my other arrangements accordingly. So far as I can now foresee, it will make no difference, with me. May it be a fortnight or it may be more distant days; but in either case I should be glad to know soon. If you think it best to pass – from the address for some weeks, or to the close of the term, you need not now be so definite as an early day work require.

Have you or any of the faculty a copy of the address which the professor delivered at the East Windsor seminary? I want it very much.

Mrs. H. writes with me in best regards to you and Mrs. H and I am
Affectionately yours
H Humphrey

Envelope: Reverend President Hitchcock, Amherst College, Amherst Mass.
Return address: Dr. Humphrey postmarked Pittsfield January 15

Letter 275

[John Medway to EH, 25 November 1851, EOH, Series 2-A, Box 3, Folder 27]

Ventnor, Isle of Wight, Nov 25, 1851.

Reverend and Dear Sir

I have been requested by the family of my late venerated tutoring friend Dr. Pye Smith to take charge of his papers with a view to a memoir of his life. Under any circumstances his correspondence would justly occupy a prominent place in such a work but inasmuch as he does not appear to have kept anything in the shape of a regular diary we are the more anxious to draw our resources from his letters. Now as you Dear Sir are among those to whom he felt it a pleasure to write, if his letters are still in your possession and you can place them for a time in my hands, you would be conferring a favor for which many besides his own family and myself would have cause to be thankful.

Your position as a scholar and a man of science and your well-known interest in certain questions of great importance in elucidating the Holy Scriptures would—I am inclined to think—give a peculiar value to Dr. Smith's correspondence with you. Nor can I omit to refer to the salutary light shed upon your own country and upon ours. When the learned men on both sides of the Atlantic are by means of the press seen to of been in such amicable literary...

[At the bottom of the page]

Rev. Edward Hitchcock DD LLD, President of Amherst College and Professor of Natural History and Geology

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...intercourse with one another. If besides letters you should be inclined to favor me with any facts or impressions which occurred to your observation during your written or your personal communications with my late beloved tutor, I shall be more deeply obliged by your kindness. And it becomes me to add that any wishes or suggestions which you may annex either to the possession or the use of the materials supplied by your hands will receive as they are entitled to do the best attention in my power. With a lively sense of gratitude for your public works with a high esteem for your character and position and with warm Christian decries for your continued usefulness in the church and the world,

I beg to subscribe myself,

Reverent and Dear Sir,

Yours most respectfully,

John Medway

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London of Billiton Square. November 29th 1851

Rev. and Dear Sir,

Although premonitions of the portentous event which has deprived us of a beloved and revered father were not wanting, the hope was indulged that Divine Providence would have spared him to his family and to the world in the secluded retirement which he had chosen near Guildford. And for his own peaceful enjoyment there—for yet some period. But God has translated him to infinite joy in the presence of Christ. And mourning our bereavement, we can but rejoice with exceeding joy for all the Grace so evidently bestowed on him this so long a life and that thus he finished his course. For days before his decease, his expressions were of gratitude prayer and blessings: and when consciousness was departing, the hand which has penned so much to vindicate so sinful even the Messiahship of Christ was often lifted up in evident supplication...

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... and prayers for those around him. I beg your acceptance of Dr. Harris's sermon on the occasion of his funeral, and of the Record of the Pye Smith testimonial which I have left in your bookseller Wm. Bogue's care.

I can only add to the request of my discriminative, warmhearted and able friend Mr. Medway the appearance that my dear father's family will be greatly obliged if you will accede to his request by sending him or use whatever letters you judge may illustrate his character. Further if you can direct these letters superscribed since I do not actually know the addresses I shall be thankful. They make similar petitions to Professor Moses Stewart, Dr. L. Woods, and M. Abbott. I take the liberty of begging you to enclose each in an envelope if time permits.

I trust your health is re-established by your visit in Europe. Your presence on that his last Anniversary of Homerton College will be long cherished in remembrance. Allow me also dear Sir, earnestly to thank you for your last most interesting and important work here lately published. I trust its circulation in England will be extensive and assuredly useful. I trust very shortly to be favored with your reply to this for which WM and I am anxious. I forwarded the packet by post. Will you send it to me (and unpaid) if your London bookseller please desire him to send to me forthwith.

I am Rev. and Dear Sir, most respectfully yours, E Pye Smith.

Letter 276

[Association of American Geologists (photocopy), 1843 May 2, EOH, Series 2-B, Box 4: folder 21. Original at the Academy of Natural Sciences in Philadelphia.]

[Stamp: Acad. Nat. Sci. Phil. MS 305]

To the Association of American Geologists and Naturalists

Gentlemen,

I am truly thankful for your approbation of my lecture delivered on Saturday evenings by your vote yesterday, requesting its publication. But as it was only recently written, and contains some thoughts which need careful re-examination, and especially as it is only one of a series of ten or twelve on collateral subjects, some of which have not yet been written, I feel obliged respectfully to decline the request of the Association.

Most sincerely their obliged friend and fellow laborer

Edward Hitchcock

Albany, May 2nd 1843

Envelope: To the secretary of the Association of American Geologists and Naturalists, Albany

[Note in upper right corner:] Professor Hitchcock declining to publish his discourse

Letter 277

[American Academy of Natural Sciences (photocopy), 1841 March 24, EOH, Series 2-B, Box 4: folder 17. Original at the American Academy of Natural Sciences.]

Amherst Mass. March 24th 1841

Dear Sir,

I feel greatly obliged to the Academy of Natural Sciences for their invitation to the Association of Geologists to hold their approaching meeting in the rooms of the Academy and I have accordingly appointed that meeting at that place, on Monday, April 5th, at 10 o'clock in the forenoon.

Respectfully your humble servant,

Edward Hitchcock

Envelope: Robert Bridges M.D., Philadelphia

Postmark: Amherst March 26

[In upper corner:] Prof. Hitchcock 1841

Letter 278

[American Philosophical Society (photocopy), 1841 July 10, EOH, Series 2-B, Box 4: folder 19. Original at the American Philosophical Society Library.]

Amherst July 10th 1841

A.P. S.

16 July 1841 Read

Dear Sir,

A constant pressure of labours, and not a feeble sense of my obligations, has hitherto prevented me from acknowledging the honor of being elected a member of the American Philosophical Society. I should, indeed, be very insensible not highly to prize membership in the oldest and most efficient philosophical society in our country, and one of the first in any country. Please to present my thanks to the Society for the honor and privileges they have conferred upon me, and to testify my readiness at all times to do what I can to promote the important objects it has in view.

I hope soon to be able to present...

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...to the Society a copy of my Final Report on the Geology of Massachusetts and also a first edition of my Elementary Geology, and a copy of my Address before the Association of American Geologists.

With high respect.

I am, sire, your obedient servant,

Edward Hitchcock

J. K. Thane, Esq.

Secretary of the American Philosophical Society

Envelope: J. K. Thane, Esq., Secretary of the American Philosophical Society, Philadelphia

Postmark: Amherst, Ma Jul 12

Letter 279

[Briggs, George N. (photocopy), 1846 July 29, EOH, Series 2-B, Box 4: folder 26. Original at the American Philosophical Society Library].

Amherst, July 29th, 1846

Hon. Sir,

We are very much rejoiced that you give any encouragement of being present at our Commencement.

Mrs. Hitchcock wishes me to extend an invitation to Mrs. Briggs to accompany you which I do with much pleasure.

On Wednesday afternoon we have usually had two orations: this year we shall have but one. Now allow me to make a suggestion and I do it in the name of the Faculty. We have a Society in college 16 years old called the Antivenenean Society which has embraced a large part of our students and whose pledge extends to ardent spirits, wine, opium, and tobacco. The history of this Society is very interesting and has been converted with great blessings to this Institution. Now at the...

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...close of Dr. Beachers Oration and after a recess let the Secretary of the Antivenenean Society give that history briefly and then let the President say that in the future if the Orator before the Alumni, Governor Briggs has consented to occupy a little time in (extempore?) remarks before the Antivenenean Society. I cannot doubt that the opportunity would be a fine one to press the principles of temperance upon as large an audience as could be got into our meetinghouse. It would be only necessary to say in the Amherst paper next week that you would probably make such remarks. We have formerly had addresses before this society commencement week so that this would not be a new thing. I sincerely hope that you may consent to this plan or some modification of it.

By dropping me a line on the subject within a few days you will greatly oblige.

Sir, your obedient servant,

Edward Hitchcock

Address: His Excellency, George N. Briggs, Governor of Massachusetts, Pittsfield, Mass.

Postmark: Amherst Ms. July 30

[Across bottom of envelope:]

Dr. Hitchcock, Pres. Amherst College and Geologist

July 46

[George Nixon Briggs (1796-1861) was a lawyer and politician who served as the Governor of Massachusetts from 1844 to 1851. He was an advocate of temperance. He live in Pittsfield, MA]

Letter 280

[Cleaveland, Parker (photocopy), 1828 May 13, EOH, Series 2-B, Box 4: folder 29. Original at the American Philosophical Society Library].

Amherst 13th May 1828

Dear Sir,

No man need ever make any apology to me for delay in answering letters as no man is more guilty in this respect than myself. But in respect to yourself I had no claims for an answer to the queries I threw into my communications. I made them in the hope that if you should have occasion to write me you might answer some of them.

In regard to an exchange of minerals I will mention such specimens as I can send you and if you would like any of them I will thank you to inform me which and how many of a kind that O may not send you useless lumber. I have duplicates of the following among others.— Granular sulphate of barytes N. Carolina — novaculite do [ditto] — Basaltiform greenstone from the natural walls of Rowan N.C. — Chrysoberyl Haddam — Micaceous oxide of iron from Hawley (fine) Sil. Ox. Manganese Bennington Green tourmaline, rubellite, sapphire, anthrophyllite, siliceous feldspar etc. Chesterfield — Spodumene, green tourmaline, etc. Goshen — carbonate of iron Plymouth Vt. Petalite etc. Westfield — Fibrolite Sterling — Scapolite Boxborough — Andalusite Westford — Bit. Carb. Lime Springfield — ditto in selenite N. Scotia Argentine Williamsburgh — Tabular quartz and red oxide of iron Conway — White augite in limestone Canaan Ct. Topaz — Chlorophane — black bleride — native bismuth — arsenical iron Monroe — chlorophaeite Gill — Cadmia, brown hematite and agillaceous oxide of iron Salisbury Ct.

I could send a box to any place in Boston you may direct: and if you should direct to the care of Putnam, Williams and Company No. 6 Central Wharf it would soon reach me. Foreign minerals or geological specimens in return would be most acceptable: the minerals of your state however would not come amiss.

A little before your last letter arrived I had forwarded to you my answers to your queries with a proof sheet of the next No. of the Am. Journal of Science which I trust you have ere this received.

In much haste,

Respectfully yours,

Edward Hitchcock

Address: By Prof. Abbot, Professor P. Cleaveland, Brunswick, Maine

Return address: May 19, 1828, Prof. Hitchcock

[Along edge]

Prof. Hitchcock, Exchange of Minerals

[Parker Cleaveland (1780-1858) was Professor at Bowdoin College and author of An Elementary Treatise of Mineralogy and Geology which Hitchcock used as a text for his mineralogy course for several years.]

Letter 281

[Eaton, Amos (photocopy), 1824 August 12, EOH, Series 2-B, Box 4: folder 31]

Page 1

[The beginning of this letter is missing]

Page 2 (Image 552)

[page cut off or folded]

...I believe he is the best geologist in the eastern...I may not have exactly suited my sections to your object. I though you wishes to take in most of the principal places near the line of the Section or I should not have introduced Amherst, Belchertown, etc. I have laid it down after the manner of Phillips and Conybeare. I may have used more names for the rocks than you will approve. However, I thought I should make myself better understood by using terms to which I have been familiar. Whatever use you make of this section and the accompanying notes I hope you will let the imperfect [????] of it appear as I have stated them on the next page. I would by no means become responsible for the Section as perfectly accurate.

What a pity it is that Silliman's health has failed! What will become of the Journal! Is he able to go that tour you talked of along the canal this approaching autumn? If so, I wish you would let me know it as I would like if in my powers and there be no objections to accompany you merely as a learner.

I received a letter the other day from Gen. S. van Rensselaer enclosing the very generous present of \$20. This is something new in geology! at least new to me! I consider myself partly in debt to you for it.

In much haste yours sincerely,

Edward Hitchcock.

Page 3 (Image 556 and 555)

Notes on the accompanying Section

This section extends from Boston to the west line of Plainfield. It comprehends all the rocks with which I am acquainted, on a belt at least ten miles in width. Near the Connecticut I have introduced some rocks from a greater distance than this. It is obvious by inspection, that the western part of the Section is most perfect. In that part I have been able to assign to the several rocks their relative super-position. But in the eastern part, I have not facts enough to enable me to do this, and therefore, separated the several formations by perpendicular lines. In the vicinity of Boston I do not profess to be very accurate, not having examined the rocks there with sufficient attention. I only put down such as I have noticed in travelling over the ground hastily two or three times. But I trust Dr. Webster will supply my deficiencies by sending you an accurate Section from Boston to Worcester. I have not been particular to lay off distances accurately: but the names of the towns and rivers which are inserted will mark out the relative situation of the rocks with sufficient accuracy. From the necessity of employing a double scale on such sections, it is well known that the true dip of the strata cannot always be exhibited. The following remarks (beginning with the rocks at Boston and proceeding westerly) will perhaps assist in understanding the Section.

Sienite. Dr. Webster informs me that the only rock ever found in situ in Boston was of this description.

Argillite passing into greenstone slate. This occurs in Brighton and sometimes becomes (so far as hand specimens enable me to decide) real greenstone. The strata dip to the Southwest.

Puddingston. Also in Brighton. This is the same as the Roxbury Puddingstone. I do not pretend to say whether it is graywacke.

Amygdaloid: [a line is crossed out, then rewritten] I know but little concerning this rock and may even be mistaken concerning its true place in the section.

Transition Argillite: This as well as the stratum described above belongs most certainly to the transition class of Werner.

Greenstone and Sienite: I include in these terms those rocks that have been sometimes called greenstone porphyry, green porphyry, sienitic porphyry, epidotic and common greenstone, etc. It ought here to be remarked that all the greenstone occurring in the vicinity of Boston is very different in its appearance from the greenstone appearing along the Connecticut...

Page 4 (Image 553 and 554)

...river.

Petrosiliceous porphyry: This is very similar to a rock occurring in Lynn, Malden, etc. and has similar associations.

Greenstone and sienite: Same as that just described.

Diluvium: I use this term as explained by Phillips and Conybeare in their late works on the geology of England and Wales. It might with propriety have been marked in several other places on the map. By introducing the rocks occurring a few miles either north or south of Sudbury, it might have been excluded in this place.

Sienitic granite passing into Sienite: This stratum cannot all be called sienite, I think. Much of it approaches nearer to true granite, and I am disposed to regard the whole as the rocks which Dr. MacCulloch so well described by the name of Sientic granites. (Trans. Geol. Soc. Vol. 3, p. 335). If it graduates as I am inclined from a hasty examination to believe it does, on the one side into pure granite, and on the other into transition sienite, it will not agree with some of the remarks made by that distinguished geologist upon these two rocks. In this rock, a few miles west of Sudbury Causeway, I noticed a distinct vein of a dark, compact greenstone – these veins are not uncommon in sienite and sienitic granite in the vicinity of Boston.

Hornbelande slate, becoming greenstone slate: The hornbelande slate passes into the greenstone slate as one goes easterly. Some perhaps would denominate the whole hornbelande slate. The layers are nearly perpendicular and run nearly east and west.

Mica slate often porphyritic and talcose: The crystals of feldspar vary from a mere line to more than an inch in diameter.

Granite: This is described in the index to the Geology of the Northern States. [by Amos Eaton]

Diluvium: This stratum comprehends the valley in which Worcester stands.

Talcose slate: This appears for a mile or two in passing west from Worcester.

Gneiss: Sometimes beds of mica slate are interposed and beds of granite are frequent and often very extensive. In Brookfield I found abundance of precious garnets in the rock.

Mica slate with Beds of Gneiss: In passing along the stage road from Northampton to Boston little else appears in this part of the section but mica slate, yet more northerly the gneiss is abundant.

Porphyritic Granite: This is a coarse grained granite and it is probably the same range that occurs in Winchester, Hinsdale, etc. in New Hampshire. I cannot say whether it occurs in beds, or is fundamental. [This rock is certainly Porphyritic gneiss in all those localities. A. E.]

Mica slate: Sometimes containing beds of gneiss.

Gneiss: Sometimes alternating with mica slate.

Hornblende slate: I am in doubt whether I have given the true relative position of [????] [????] rocks. For a more particular description of this and all the...

Sienitic granite: Very similar to that in Belchertown and Ludlow. It extends from Whately to Northampton.

Primitive greenstone and sienite: Most of the greenstone is schistose, and where this structure is lost, it passes into beautiful sienite.

Argillite: This is introduced from Leyden, 15 miles to the north of Whately. In Leyden its relative position is as given on the section.

Mica slate and coarse limestone: See Journal of Science Vol. 6, p. 37.

Mica slate: Very irregular and tortuous in general.

Horneblende slate and Mica Slate alternating: This may be seen in Shelburne, Heath, Colrain, etc.

Alternations of granite with mica slate: In Conway, Goshen, Ashfield, Chesterfield, Williamsburg, Northampton, etc. Towards the central parts the granite greatly predominates.

Mica slate: Folia perpendicular or leaning a little to the east.

Talcase slate: In the west part of Plainfield. I have traced this stratum ___ miles north of Plainfield into Vermont.

Chlorite slate: This stratum is introduced from Whitingham, Vermont. It is narrow, but well characterized. It is succeeded in Whitingham by mica slate on the west.

Page 6 (Image 555)

[this is duplicate]

Page 7 (Image 550)

Envelope: Professor Amos Eaton, Troy, New York

Mr. E. Hitchcock, Aug. 12 – 1824

[Amos Eaton (1776-1842), botanist, geologist, educator, graduate of Williams College, author of Manual of Botany for the Northern States, he carried out the original geological survey for the Erie Canal)

Letter 282

[Greene, Thomas A (photocopy), 1834 September 15, EOH, Series 2-B, Box 4: folder 37. Original at the Historical Society of Pennsylvania]

Amherst Sept. 15th 1834

Dear Sir,

Your letter containing corrections of the Catalogue of shells was duly received and they will be inserted in the proper places. It will not be too late to make any farther addition if received by the middle of October.

The young gentleman who took the highest appointment in our graduating class this year (Mr. Charles B. Adams of Dorchester) has paid a good deal of attention to Chemistry and Natural History and seems to me to promise as much in these departments as any young man whom I have ever met with—that has prepared himself to give popular lectures on Chemistry for a time wherever he can find encouragement having expended a considerable sum for apparatus and materials. Not doubting but he will succeed well as a lecturer I have volunteered to mention him to you thinking it might be possible that the people of New Bedford might like to have...

Page 2

...him give a course there some time during the winter. At present he is lecturing in Dorchester: but has no other engagements that I know of. Should there be any wish to obtain him a line addressed to him at Dorchester might settle preliminaries.

With much respect I remain your obliged friend

Edward Hitchcock

Address: Thomas A. Greene Esq., New Bedford, Mass.

Return address: Amherst Mas, Sept 16

[Thomas A. Greene (1793-1867), first a teacher, later a representative to the General Court of Massachusetts, champion of public education, amateur naturalist and collector]

Letter 283

[Hall, Frederick (photocopy), 1826 April 13, EOH, Series 2-B, Box 4: folder 40. Original at the Historical Society of Pennsylvania].

Amherst April 13th 1826

Dear Sir,

The boxes you sent by the stage arrived in due season. I am sorry to add however that the most valuable articles (a differential and an air thermometer) were broken: whether between N. York and Hartford or between Hartford and Amherst I know not. At any rate I know they were shamefully packed. But we are liable to such accidents and the chemist must make up his mind not to be influenced by them. For your kindness in attending to my boxes you have my sincere thanks. I do not see that you are likely to get rid of me yet: for Major Delafield of N. York wrote me a few days since that he had forwarded me a box of minerals to your care and Mr. Hovey of Yale College wrote that he should send you for me a phial of potassium. If you have received the latter will you be so good as to send it by the bearer: or should you receive it soon I wish you would keep it till Mr. Hovey calls upon you (about the first or second week in May) to whom I have written requesting him to locate as I fear having so small and precious an article sent by the stage and I am in no great hurry for it. Should a good private opportunity occur before that time I should be glad to have it sent. I am not aware...

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...that any more boxes will be sent me from the south at present unless perhaps one from N. York. I had no expectation of having so many sent as have been by at least one half. Please to retain the box from Maj. Delafield till I send for it by the boatman.

I have commenced lecturing in Chemistry and find myself incessantly occupied for everything is new (not excepting the lecturer) and I have no laboratory.

I shall endeavour to send you MacCulloch's work by the bearer; but I shall be under the necessity of requesting you to return it by Mr. Hovey when he calls as I must ere long take up the subject myself. I think MacCulloch remarkable for two qualities clearness of definition and freedom from hypothesis. You will see that van Rennselaer's synopsis of rocks is copied from MacCulloch. I agree with you in opinion about V. R.'s book and think it is a pity he published so scanty a production. In answer to your wish that I would write a book on geology I have merely to wish that you would do the same. I am deeply sensible of the need of an elementary work on the subject but have neither ability time nor health to write one. I think most works on geology put the cart before the horse viz. the hypothesis before the facts.

I did not mean to say by referring to MacCulloch that you had named the specimens of limestone...

Page 3

...wrong: but merely to enquire whether they would not come under MacCulloch's descriptions: for as the term is frequently used this day I hardly know what is meant by siliceous limestone except the Fountainbleau variety.

It will be impossible for me to attend to packing any minerals under several weeks as I am pressed with business. As soon as possible I mean to attend to it.

You did not say in your last what was the state of Mrs. Hall's health which was so much impaired when you wrote before. My family are rather gaining I hope though Mrs. H. is still feeble. She has a daughter a month old.

In great haste I remain sir your much obliged obedient servant.

Edward Hitchcock

Prof. F. Hall.

Address: Prof. Frederick Hall, Washington College, Hartford

By Mr. Pattison

[Note at bottom]

From Professor Hall, 10 May 1841

[Frederick Hall (1779-1843), geologist, graduate of Dartmouth, professor at Middlebury 1805-1826, then at Trinity in Hartford which was known at the time as Washington College]

Letter 284

[Low, Jacob H., 1853 February 25, EOH, Series 2-B, Box 4: folder 51]

[Note: In the Finding Aids the name is stated as "Joseph Low" and the year is shown as 1857; the state treasurer at the time was "Jacob H. Loud." Name and date have been corrected in ACDC]

To Jacob H. Loud Esq.

Treasurer of Massachusetts

Sir,

Please pay to the bearer Edward Hitchcock Jr. whatever may be due me for travelling expenses as a member of the Board of Agriculture and for which a warrant has been drawn by the...

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...Governor and Council on my behalf and oblige.

Yours respectfully,

Edward Hitchcock

Amherst, February 25th 1853

[Jacob Hersey Loud(1820-1880) was Massachusetts State Treasurer from 1853-1855 and again from 1866-1871]

Letter 285

[Markoe, Francis (photocopy), 1844 August 7, EOH, Series 2-B, Box 5: folder 2. Original at the Historical Society of Pennsylvania].

Dear Sir,

I had resolved that I would not write you again till I could say that I had forwarded to you a box of minerals. But I perceive that if I wait for that I shall seem to be too long remindful of your favors received in the course of a few weeks past.

I regretted that I could not stay at least one day in Washington after our meeting and especially to call again upon you at your hospitable mansion and thank you for kindness. But I felt compelled to leave early the morning after the meeting closed on account of my duties at home.

I think my trip was of service to my health. When at Washington most of my aches and bad feelings left.

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But some of them came back when I met at New York with the cold northeast winds.

I found myself so much occupied during the summer term with duties in College that I could find little time to get ready my duplicates for exchange and for the last fortnight of vacation I have been abroad—some of the time in getting minerals—I have found a new locality of good Bucholzite in Filsolite of which I mean to send you specimens. I have been negotiating for D. Reid's large specimen of Gibsolite that he, finally concluded to let it go: and for some reason or other has not sent it yet the lines quite sernate from me. I trust I shall obtain it. But I fear it will be impossible to get you any mineralite or daubnite or moriorite or molybdate of [????]. I hope however I shall be able to send you some things that will be acceptable and that erelong. But poor health and multiplied engagements cause me to move rather slowly.

I am glad to learn that the...

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...volume of the Institute is to be published and I am certain it will do much credit to the authors and the Association.

I regret that I did not know till the moment of leaving your house how seriously you had been afflicted, especially Mrs. Markoe. I was struck with her severely subdued and chastened appearance but did not know the cause.

I do trust that she as well as yourself have found in this that it is good to have been afflicted. Please to express to her my sincere regards and sympathy—not forgetting the little boy—I forget his name—and [????] your truly and sincerely yours,

E. Hitchcock

PS: Excuse the above terrible debacle of ink as I have not time to copy this letter. Fact is being in a great hurry I caught hold of the inkstand when I meant to take the sand box.

My daughters feel very gratified for your valuable autographs which are a great addition to their little stock.

Envelope: Francis Markoe Jr. Esq., Washington, DC

[Francis Markoe, Jr. was geologist and one of the original founders of the Association of American Geologists; he lived in Washington, DC.]

Letter 286

[Markoe, Francis (photocopy), 1847 April 6, EOH, Series 2-B, Box 5: folder 2. Original at the Historical Society of Pennsylvania].

Richmond, Va. April 6th 1847

Dear Sir,

In coming to this place I did not pass through Washington or I should have called on you. I have come here because my health has been so poor that our New England climate in March and April was too severe for me. That state of health has been the reason why I have not answered your letter. Not being able to furnish but a part of the minerals you wish I sent your letter to Prof. C. U. Shepard then in Charleston, S.C. but now in New Haven Ct. He replies that he can furnish you with the following: Chathamite 4 specimens Meteoric iron 2, Chrichloride 2 – Warwickite 1 – Allanite 2 – Dauberite (a mere fragment) 1 – Bytownite 1 – Brestonite hydrous anthophyllite 1 – Indicolite 2 – Emmonsite 1 – Calstion Bayte 2 – Washingtonite 2 – Baptyllite 1. In return he wants for the meteoric iron other meteoric irons and for the others the following minerals viz. coquelite, pyrrhite, Scarbiotite, Dioptera and silver ores. If you wish to exchange with him you can address him or send him above at once at N. Haven.

I could furnish you with some of the specimens you want such as Canaanite, Allanite (or numerous specimens if you want), and Molybdenum. I could...

Page

...also secure for you numerous specimens of Gibbsite finer than any I have seen. You do not say however that you want this mineral.

My present plan is to spend say the month of April in this place. If possible I mean to call on you on my return especially if my health improves.

Respectfully and sincerely yours,

Edward Hitchcock

Addressed to: Francis Markoe Jr. Esq., Washington, DC.

Postmark: Richmond, Va April 7

Letter 287

[Perkins, Justin (photocopy), 1842 March 3, EOH, Series 2-B, Box 5: folder 9. Original at the American Philosophical Society Library].

Amherst, March 3, 1842

Rev. and dear Sir,

The idea of your being again in this country has seemed so much like a dream that I was highly gratified the other day to receive a letter from you written only 20 mile distant. We have watched you movements ever since you left Smyrna and anxiously wait for a visit. I hope you will make my house your home while in Amherst and invite your companion Mar Yohanna to do the same. We cannot give you Nestorian fare, but we will give you a Christian welcome. If Mrs. Perkins is able to accompany you of course we shall be very happy to see her.

I was rejoiced to hear that you had picked up a few more specimens of rocks on your way from Persia. The fact is I have commenced this winter an analysis of...

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...several specimens formerly received from you Mr. Hebard and other missionaries with a view to make out a paper on the geology of Syria, Palestine, Persia, etc. to present to the meeting of geologists in Boston next April. Should I be permitted to finish it I should hope it might exert a little influence in favor of the missionary cause among scientific men. You mention a specimen of mineral water if you intended it for me I wish to say I should be glad to receive it soon as it requires a long time to analyze it—and so if the other specimens if any of them need analysis. I had commence an examination of the water of lake Ooromiah when I was prostrated by sickness and have been confined for a month. But as through the kindness of Providence I am beginning to get about again I hope soon to resume my analysis. I wish much to converse with you about several of the interesting facts you have communicated. But as I hope soon to have that pleasure I will not enlarge and sub scribe myself as ever yours respectfully and sincerely,

Edward Hitchcock

P.S. If the specimens you speak of are in Boston they would reach me if put upon the railroad to Springfield and directed to be left at the Palmer Depot.

Envelope: Rev. Justin Perkins, Springfield, Mass.

[Justin Perkins (1805-1869) was an 1829 graduate of AC, he taught at Amherst Academy and as a tutor at AC for one year. He moved to Persia in 1833 and served as a missionary there for the remainder of his life. Mar Johanna (or Yohannan) was the Bishop of Ooromiah in Persia, a colleague and friend of Perkins. Perkins boarded with the Hitchcocks during his year as a tutor. See Justin Perkins Papers at AC Archives.]

Letter 288

[Van Rensselaer, Stephen (photocopy), 1835 September 16, EOH, Series 2-B, Box 5: folder 29. Original at the Historical Society of Pennsylvania.]

Amherst Sept. 16th 1835

Dear Sir,

As young Poor whom you have assisted is going to Albany to accompany his sister it occurred to me that it might be pleasant for you to see him and I have accordingly requested him to call upon you. I can think of no errand except to ask you whether two years ago you received a copy of my geological report to the Government of Massachusetts which was left at your lodgings in N. York when you were out and which I feared might get mislaid. If you should just state to Poor whether you received it or not it will prevent his thinking strange if I tell him if possible to see you in person.

Respectfully yours,

Edward Hitchcock

Envelope: Hon. Stephen Van Rensselaer, Albany, N.Y.

By Mr. W. Poor

[Stephen Van Rensselaer (1764-1839) was a Harvard graduate, a businessman, and a politician, rising to Lieut. Governor of New York and serving for some years in the U.S. House of Representatives. He founded Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute. "Mr. Poor" might have been Daniel Warren Poor who was an Amherst College student from 1833 to 1836.]

Letter 289

[Elliott, Honorable Samuel A.,(8 letters; photocopies), 1847-1848, EOH, Series 2-B, Box 4: folder 33. Originals at Harvard University.]

[Numbers 234 and 604 appear upper right]

Amherst Dec. 7th 1847

Dear Sir,

I am much pleased with the plan of petitioning the Legislature for pecuniary aid as you propose: though I should have but little expectation of immediate success. The only difficulty in the way of this College is that our Trustees living most of them at a distance are rarely in the habit of meeting more than once in a year and as most of them are rather advanced in life I have some fear that I might not obtain a quorum if a meeting were appointed. I have however nearly concluded to call them together as I do not see how otherwise we could join in the petition. I hope you will get your petition ready and send it to us if you wish that we should sign the same as you do. Allow me also to suggest the desirableness of having a printed letter prepared which the friends of the several colleges could put into the hands of their friends who are chosen members of the Legislature to prepare the way for the petition. It seems to me this would be an important preliminary.

I think we shall not be able to get President Everett...

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...a meeting under about three weeks.

Respectfully yours,

Edward Hitchcock

Letter 290

[Elliott, Honorable Samuel A.,(8 letters; photocopies), 1847-1848, EOH, Series 2-B, Box 4: folder 33. Originals at Harvard University].

[Numbers 627 and 252 appear upper right]

Amherst Dec. 20th 1847

Dear Sir,

I thank you for yours of the 11th instant enclosing a Memorial to the Legislature and an outline of an Act for aid to the Colleges. I shall lay them before our Board of Trustees at their meeting to be held Dec. 28th.

In reflecting on the subject a few things have occurred to me which it seems to me should be well considered beforehand. In the first place I think our petition will be met in the Legislature by the statement that the Academies need aid more than the Colleges and therefore they should be aided first. Thus perhaps while we shake the bush the Academies may catch the bird. In my last I suggested the expediency of preparing a circular on the subject to be put into the hands of our friends who are members of the Legislature before that body meet. I would in that circular draw a comparison between the liberality of N. York (and I believe I might add also Pennsylvania) toward her colleges as well as Academies and the treatment they have received in this state. I think the picture would touch state pride and make us feel that we are much behind N. York...

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...in this matter. I have not the facts we covered at the moment but they might easily be obtained. Would not such a statement do much towards meeting the argument above suggested which will probably be addressed.

In the second place I feel somewhat troubled about Section 5th in the proposed Act which provides for Colleges that may hereafter be incorporated and allows them to come in for their share of the income of the grant. Now I have little doubt that there are at least four religious denominations in the state (Baptist, Methodists, Episcopalians, Universalists— I might add Catholics who already have a college) who would at once establish colleges if they could be certain that five years hence they should be sure of a permanent income of \$5000 – or 5000 [????] for that sum could nearly sustain a small college. Would not that section of the Act then be pretty sure to start several new colleges? Harvard doubtless would feel the bad effect of such a result less than Amherst or Williams. But I think the effect would be bad upon us all. And why should we thus provide beforehand for the endowment of new colleges? After all the efforts which the present colleges have made and the good they have done is it not reasonable that they should ask for aid for themselves alone? If an outcome...

Page 3

...of this maliciousness the sum obtained should be smaller I think the evil would be less than the one I am contemplating. Indeed from what I hear said here I should doubt whether our Trustees would join in a petition unless some plan can be devised to avoid this difficulty. Perhaps it is a bugbear, and you can at once relieve my perplexity. If so I should be very glad to hear from you before the meeting of our Board.

With high respect I remain most truly yours

Edward Hitchcock

Letter 291

[Elliott, Honorable Samuel A.,(8 letters; photocopies), 1847-1848, EOH, Series 2-B, Box 4: folder 33. Originals at Harvard University].

[Numbers 640 and 266 appear upper right]

Amherst Dec. 29th 1847

Dear Sir,

Our Trustees met yesterday and voted unanimously to present a petition to the Legislature in aid of that to be presented by Harvard University which you sent me. As we entirely agree with the views and objects in that petition it is a matter of indifference whether we sign that or present ours apart. We will do as your Board wish as to that matter when informed of your wishes.

Our Trustees all objected to the fifth section of the proposed Act as I suppose they would for the reason which I stated in my last. But I suppose it is unnecessary at present to discuss these details. They can be arranged when a Committee of the Legislature shall be ready to report in favour of the object.

It is our wish that Harvard University should take the management of the matter into their own hands as to the time and manner of presenting the Petition. As a committee of our Trustees I shall be read to cooperate in any way that may seem desirable though I hope I may not be obliged to go before the Legislature. Two of our Trustees I suppose will be members of the Senate and probably several of our graduates will be members of one or the other of the chambers of the...

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...Government. Perhaps you can devise some plan by which we can try to interest our friends in the measure before it is presented to the Legislature.

Are you aware that the Normal Schools in the state had it in contemplation to adopt the same plan last winter which you propose in order to obtain that end which was referred to them upon a direct petition? I am told that they will doubtless persevere in this measure at the coming session and very likely Mr. Mann may recommend it in his Report. You can judge in view of this fact whether it will be better to anticipate these schools by an early presentation of our Petition.

With great respect I remain truly

Yours

Edward Hitchcock

Letter 292

[Elliott, Honorable Samuel A.,(8 letters; photocopies), 1847-1848, EOH, Series 2-B, Box 4: folder 33. Originals at Harvard University].

[Received 28 Jan]

Dear Sir,

I just now received an invitation from the Committee on Education to appear before them on Friday next at 3 o'clock P.M. As I wrote you some time since I have a desire to be excused from going to Boston especially because I fear exposure may bring on my lung difficulties...

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...afresh and also because I do not see any use in being present. But lest the committee should regard me as shrinking from my duty I have resolved to go if possible. And I write this to say that should I not be there it will only be on account of my health.

I send herewith a copy of our College News and remain

Very respectfully yours,

Edward Hitchcock

P. S. I have made no preparation whatever for saying anything before the committee in aid of our Petition and if I appear before them it will only be to say amen to the remarks of yourself and Dr. Hopkins.

Letter 293

[Elliott, Honorable Samuel A.,(8 letters; photocopies), 1847-1848, EOH, Series 2-B, Box 4: folder 33. Originals at Harvard University].

Amherst July 5th 1848 [Number 241]

Dear Sir,

I recommended Prof. Twining to Mr. Lawrence merely from my acquaintance with his character and from enquiring of Professor Adams of this College who was associated with him nine years at Middlebury. A year ago Mr. Adams says he is confident such a post would have been agreeable to him. Since then I have been told that he had gone to the west with a view of taking up his residence there. But where he is now or what are his plans or wishes I cannot inform you nor can I refer you to anyone who would be likely to know except President Woolsey and I might perhaps add President Labaree of Middlebury College. I think you will get all the information you want from Mr. Woolsey.

The subject of a renewed application to the legislature I will lay before our Trustees at the meeting on the 8th of August. I know of nothing to prevent their uniting with the other Colleges in a renewed application. I agree with you in the importance of some previous preparation of the public mind by articles in the...

Page 2

...newspapers, etc. And these articles should be mainly directed to meet the objections of the common people in relation to the common schools etc. Such objections in fact as were stated in the minority

Report last winter which I think did more than anything else to defeat the measure. And I presume you will have the author of it again present next winter.

Respectfully yours,

Edward Hitchcock

[Theodore Woolsey was President of Yale, Alexander Twining was a professor at Middlebury 1838-1847; Abbott Lawrence was an AC trustee and a businessman.]

Letter 294

[Elliott, Honorable Samuel A.,(8 letters; photocopies), 1847-1848, EOH, Series 2-B, Box 4: folder 33. Originals at Harvard University].

Amherst August 12th 1848 [Number 265]

Dear Sir,

I write at this time merely to say that our Trustees yesterday authorised me if judged expedient to unite again with Harvard University in petitioning the aid of the Legislature. From a letter from President Hopkins I judge that some preliminary consultations may be necessary before renewing the effort. But I will not add more now.

I have just ascertained that Prof. A. C. Twining has gone to Boston where he will remain two or three days: but I do not know at what hotel he stops. He goes from there to Mr. Haling's where he will remain a few weeks.

Respectfully yours,

Edward Hitchcock

Letter 295

[Elliott, Honorable Samuel A.,(8 letters; photocopies), 1847-1848, EOH, Series 2-B, Box 4: folder 33. Originals at Harvard University].

Amherst Sept 9th 1848

Dear Sir,

Your letter of the 19th ult. Was received in my absence with the accompanying volume—the History of Harvard College. It will be placed very thankfully in the library of Amherst College. I think you have done a good service in preparing this work. Many like myself cannot find time to read the larger work of President Quincy and will be thankful for yours. I have looked it over with much gratification.

I have just addressed a letter to Hon. Abbott Lawrence saying that Prof. Adams of our college proposes to spend next winter after November in the West Indies in order to make collections in zoology and other parts of natural history and that our College was willing to continue his salary while absent and to pay his ordinary expenses. But that we do not feel able to add anything for the expenses of collecting. Now if Mr. Lawrence in Harvard University were disposed to give say...

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...say from \$100 to \$300 for this purpose on condition of having the collection made divided between us in proportion to the money paid might not both be benefited. I know of no man living who has greater skill or would be more diligent in making collections than Prof. Adams and he has the advantage of having already spent one winter in the West Indies. I have however referred Mr. Lawrence to Professor Agassiz for his opinion on the subject and he is acquainted with Prof. Adams. It occurred to me that if you should deem the matter of consequence enough you might be willing to name it to the gentlemen of Cambridge who have the management of such affairs.

I hope you will get matters well matured before making another onset upon the Legislature. I shall be ready to do any thing in my power with pleasure but we shall look to Harvard to take the lead and form the plans.

Very respectfully yours

E. Hitchcock

Letter 296

[Elliott, Honorable Samuel A., (8 letters; photocopies), 1847-1848, EOH, Series 2-B, Box 4: folder 33. Originals at Harvard University.]

[Numbered 296]

Amherst Dec 6th 1848

Dear Sir,

I have been looking over the plan you sent me the other days for the new application of the Colleges and am much pleased with it. I some doubt whether the scholarships should be so large as to pay all the expenses of the student except board lest he should have too easy a time of it and not learn to help himself. But perhaps this matter could be left to each college to do as it pleases—I mean as to amount of the scholarships.

It seems to me that some able gentlemen who will be members of the Legislature and who are known to be favorable to the application should be requested to prepare themselves on the subject and especially that they should be requested to be ready to show the fallacy of the arguments against the measure brought forward last year in the Minority Report written by Mr. Hubbard. I apprehend that the report had great influence with the farmers and mechanics who were members.

I shall be glad to be in Boston and appear before the Committee if my...

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...health will permit. I have been recently afflicted with bleeding at the lungs and can make but poor calculations as to the future. It may be necessary for me to go to a milder climate.

As soon as I receive the Petition from Dr. Hopkins I will sign it and forward it without delay.

Respectfully yours,

Edward Hitchcock

Dec. 7th I forwarded the Petition this morning.

Hon. Samuel A. Elliot, Boston

Letters between Edward Hitchcock and Samuel Williston #297-302

Letter 297

[EH to Samuel Williston, EOH Series 2-B, Box 1: folder 15]

Amherst May 4th 1854

Dear Sir,

You may recollect that when a year ago last Commencement I consented to withdraw my resignation, I did so with the understanding that if I found it impossible to go on, I would give the Trustees private notice.

That time has now come. The evils of which I then complained have been rather upon the increase ever since, while my infirmities have also been gaining upon me. Especially during the past winter, from the resignation of my officer, the sickness of a second, the absence of a third, and from several other causes, my labors and anxieties have become quite insupportable. I have made...

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...strenuous efforts to hold on to this time, because I was trying to accomplish certain objects for the College, in which I found I could not succeed if out of office—the most important of these remains unaccomplished,— but I feel entirely inadequate to sustain the duties of the Presidency any longer and I beg to be released as early at least as next Commencement, and if it were possible at a still earlier date.

Indeed, of labors, and perplexities, press upon me next term as they have during the past, I shall be compelled to quit my post at once, because my system cannot stand under the load.

I have already persevered longer than prudence or the best medical advice would recommend. I still feel able to wok almost as hard as ever but...

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...not to sustain the cares, anxieties, and responsibilities of my present office.

I take the liberty to suggest the importance of having this purpose of mine kept from the knowledge of the public until the time when I leave and that a successor be appointed who shall be ready to take my place then for the past experience of the College shows how disastrous is the effect of having such an office long vacant.

If you judge a special meeting of the Trustees desirable, please send me a line to that effect, and if the majority so desire, I would call a meeting at once.

I remain, very respectfully yrs

Edward Hitchcock

Letter 298

[Samuel Williston to EH, EOH Series 2-B, Box 1: folder 15]

E. Hampton May 8 1854

Rev. Edward Hitchcock, D.D.

My dear sir,

Your communication requesting to be released from the duties of the Presidency of our College came duly to hand. After my interview with you the other day, I was, in some measure, prepared for this result. After hearing your statement I did not feel at liberty to urge your continuance, as much as I wanted to. I felt compelled, in du...

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...ty, from affection, to look at your side of the question. Still I hope that after weighing the matter again, you would feel, that you could, without any great detriment to your health, continue to perform the duties of your office a while longer. I feel extremely sorry for my own sake, as well as for the College to have you retire. I doubt whether I should ever have done much for Amherst College but for my acquaintance with you, and for the sentiments of affection and esteem which I have long cherished for you. My hope and prayer is that kind Providence who has so long blessed and prospered Amherst College will still watch over it for good and that when you shall leave the Presidency, a suit...

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...able man may be found to take your place. I trust you will continue to aid the College and do what you can for the cause of sound learning and religion in this institution as a Professor. I am in favor of your calling a meeting of the Trustees soon.

Most truly and cordially yours,

Samuel Williston

Letter 299

[EH to Samuel Williston, EOH Series 2-B, Box 1: folder 15]

Amherst, June 26th 1854

Dear Sir,

As only five of the Trustees, in replying to my last letter, have expressed an opinion that a meeting of the Body would be necessary before Commencement, I do not feel authorized to call one. Perhaps it is unnecessary. I wish only that it should be distinctly understood that my connection with the College as its President may cease at Commencement. Indeed, I have already been obliged to begin arrangements for the location and support of my family, on that supposition.

I do not wish to be myself...

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...consulted as to a successor. But I beg leave to suggest that the choice should be such as to meet the concurrence of my colleagues.

With sincere respect,

Most truly yours,

Edward Hitchcock

P. S. Mt. Calhoun suggested the other day whether a meeting of the Trustees might not be held in Boston. But would you not feel it desirable to converse with the Professors before selecting my successor. If so how would it do for the Trustees who live in Boston and vicinity to send a deputation to Amherst for the purpose?

Letter 300

[EH to Samuel Williston, EOH Series 2-B, Box 1: folder 15]

Amherst June 26th 1854

Dear Sir,

It is very trying to me to urge the matter of my resignation upon the Trustees. But I can use with almost literal exactness the language of Paul when he says, We were pressed out of measure above strength, insomuch that we despaired even of life. If you knew what I have suffered for two or three years past you would not wonder that I feel and my family feel that I cannot live much longer unless I get released—perhaps not if I do but certainly...

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...if I do not. I have felt ever since I have been in my present place that I was risking and shortening life. But I felt that it was my duty to stand by my post and risqué the consequences so long as I could perform its duties. I now feel that I can not do it and that the College is suffering much for the want of more vigorous hands. I do not expect to explain my position so that the Trustees will finally appreciate it. But I hope they will believe that I would not quite the post of duty if I thought God required me to abide by it nor...

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...at my period of life throw myself out upon the world with a large family to support. But I will not enlarge.

I have received a letter from Mr. Child and he speaks of a meeting of the Trustees week after next on Monday or Tuesday. Whether I have the power to call a meeting which would be legal in such circumstances I am in doubt and there is no member of the Prudential Committee within many miles to advise me. But if a considerable number of the Trustees got together and consult is it essential that the meeting be strictly legal? My opinion is that your office would be the best place for...

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...a meeting if away from Amherst and least likely to excite public observation. The only difficulty I stated in a postscript to my last. I hesitate to say positively that such a meeting will take place because I hope in a few days to hear from more of the Trustees. In the meantime if not convenient to have the meeting at your office please inform me and believe me

Most truly yours,

Edward Hitchcock

[Linus Child was a Board member from Lowell]

Letter 301

[EH to Samuel Williston, EOH Series 2-B, Box 1: folder 15]

Amherst, Sept. 1st 1854

Dear Sir,

On my return home last evening yours of the 29th was put into my hands and this evening yours of yesterday arrived. The acceptance of Dr. Stearns is very gratifying intelligence as well as the prospect of my early release from the duty of his locum tenens. I shall be glad as early as may be to know how early he will wish to enter upon the duties of the office as I am anxious to make some repairs upon my house before returning to it.

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It is too late to get any notice of Dr. Stearns' decision into any paper in this region the present week. The Springfield Republican will appear on Monday and perhaps I had better give the editors notice of the facts.

Though I rejoice in the decision of Dr. Stearns I frankly confess that I feel no little anxiety about the conditions especially the \$300 addition to the salary. Even if contributed for a few years by individuals it must soon come from the College treasury; and moreover you cannot give him \$2000 without adding a considerable more to the salaries of the...

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...other officers. This I should be glad to have done but I am quite confident you cannot do it without running the College in debt. You recollect probably that the treasurer said that when the salaries and bills due were paid little or nothing would remain in the treasury. With our present salaries we can just get along comfortably and no more. Now you know how I dread to have the College again in debt. I have suffered too much from the cause and labored too hard to remove the incubus not to feel deeply anxious about it, especially as you know I suppose that some of our present..

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... income fails us when in debt (Mr. Sears friends). It seems to me that if the Trustees mean to raise the salaries of the officers an indispensable prerequisite will be to get another professorship endowed. If I had known of this matter earlier, I should have proposed an immediate movement to this end before Dr. S.'s decision should be made public. Is it yet too late to take advantage of his acceptance to start the thing on the ground that his acceptance involves new expenses? Will a time ever be so favorable?

Perhaps I ought to consider the time of giving my opinion on these matters as past. But I know you will excuse it. I have not conversed on this subject with any of the Trustees as your letter was the first hint I had of it: but I should not think it strange if some of them should entertain views similar to those above expressed.

Rumour this evening says that Mr. Williston's new church and the parsonage have again burnt down!

Most truly yours,

Edward Hitchcock

Letter 302

[EH and family to EHJ, October 8, 1860, EOH, Series 2-B, Box 4: folder 43.]

Amherst Oct 8th 1860

Dear Son and Brother,

We had been watching with great interest for several days for notice of the arrival of the Vanderbilt in Europe till at length we saw it and very soon your letter came to hand and relieved are anxieties. We think upon the whole you got across the Atlantic more comfortably than usual – though not perhaps much favored in your company. But if you had been as sick as some of us were it would have been a matter of little importance who were your fellow passengers. And yet we regret that you had not at least one or two acquaintances to sympathize with you and keep off the blues. We trust you have found such ere this and find homesickness disappearing among the mountains of...

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...Switzerland. We hope you not let that great enemy of comfort prevent you from going where it is best and staying as long as you anticipated. Some of us remember that by the desire to go home as soon as possible we lost some sights which we now regret not to have seen.

Tomorrow Catherine and Emily with that boy leave for Cincinnati, Mr. Storrs having gone today to meet them at Bridgeport. We thought it might gratify you if the whole family unite in this short note of congratulations before we separate and then perhaps some of us can add something on his own hook. We miss you from our circle but rather envy you the opportunity of seeing so many splendid things on which if you returned safely you will look back upon all your life with high gratification.

We have no news of consequence to communicate, nothing having occurred of importance since you left. We have not heard from your family at all but trust that all is well. Last week two of (Pa and Ma) attended the Jubilee of the American Board in Boston where we found nearly everybody we had ever seen before of interest was thrown into the meeting as you may well conceive. At the communion four large churches were crammed.

This week the Senior Class with the state geologist in his assistant propose to spend four days in Vermont studying geology though such is the health of the principal of the survey that probably he cannot go.

It was sad to part with you and now we must go through another breaking off. But we shall try to fix our faith upon the final reunion above. In [????] of it let us in faithful to God and duty wherever we are.

Affectionately Yours,

Edward Hitchcock
O. W. Hitchcock

C. H. Storrrs
Jane E. Hitchcock
Emily Hitchcock

October 13th 1860

Dear son,

Charles and I have been off with the Seniors in Vermont and got back. They had a splendid time of it. Among the rest they have put a name upon Dorset Mt. which is now called Mount Eolus. with the cordial approbation of the people. Charles made the consecrating speech. I went as far as Mount Holly although too sick with an influenza for such an excursion.

On our return we found your Journal as far as Paris sent us by your wife. We have read it with much interest. Your statements confirm the impression I have received from other quarters that there are some deficiencies on our American steamers. I think you would have found much more congenial company on board the screw steamers. Before this reaches you, you will probably have returned from Switzerland—have you learnt that only the day after you reached there there was a great equinoctial storm on the coast and many wrecks though grateful that you escaped it.

In the Hunterian Museum is a part of the cast of a skeleton of the megatherium putt upon an iron frame so as to exhibit in part the true skeleton. These were formally going to Dr. Warren and intended for me but got lost. We can now get them for 25 pounds and perhaps I might raise this sum if you find on looking at them that they are worth \$125. Could not nearly the whole skeleton be made out by taking casts of the bones on the frames? If the head is mutilated I think I know where I can get the cast of a whole...

Page 4

...one. I wish you would get sight of these specimens as soon as you can after going to London and let me know your opinion at once. If you should spend a considerable part of the winter in London could you in any way get additional casts of some of the lacking parts? Either the College of Surgeons or British Museum must have moulds of those bones for they got up full skeletons as you will see. Tell Owen how I lost those above describe which were sent me for the casts of tracks which are in the Hunterian Museum and perhaps he may feel like helping.

I would gladly add more but I am extremely oppressed by a cold and I trust others will fill the sheet. God bless you and guide you through your travels in peace in his own time.

Affectionately yours

Edward Hitchcock

My dear brother:

Have only time for a few words. Our work Vt naming Mt. Eolus was a complete success. The folks in East Dorset paid all the bills of the students and will use the name henceforth and a history of the town of

Dorset is nearly ready to be struck off and Mrs. Fields sent orders to have the work stopped till the mountain had received a new name. He said they had been anxious for a new name for a long time. The students gave two concerts in Ludlow and Rutland much to the gratification of the people. The proprietors of the Equinox house in Manchester invited the whole class to spend two or three days with him and was much disappointed to know that the laws of the college would be broken by their complying with his invitation.

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I obtained a pocketful of bats at the Eolus cave and have them now in a glass before me. There are five or six of them. They are now quite active, though torpid when taken from the caves. One flew out of my pocket on the way down the mountain. Two of them have been flying around my room and one I rather think got out of the house and flew to the church at least a bat has been flying about the church all day much to the delight of the young folks. Mr. Field is to have the name Mount Eolus with the name of the class of 61 engraved upon the marble just over the entrance of the cave.

I almost envy you the sights you are beholding in Switzerland—but hope to see them another year.

I have just let my bats loose and they are flying all around the room with great joy. I leave the rest for Jane.

Dear Edward – The idea that I am writing something to be sent across the ocean drives everything clear out of my head. I can only say that I read your letters with great interest. Mary sent your first one to her for us to read. My sympathies were specially awakened for you during the voyage alone and among such sort of people. But probably you have forgotten about that now and I hope you will find some pleasant companion for your return.

We feel quite desolate here now with so many of the family gone but to make up for it, in part, we have some interesting letters to read. Lest I should forget it, I will say here that I beg of you to try a British steamer when you return and see if it is not an improvement. For I judge from, what you say that the people on board the Vanderbilt sacrificed comfort and everything else to Fashion. Are you homesick now? If you are I pity you for I know by sad experience what the feeling is. Are you going to learn to speak French or German! I wish you would and then you can teach us. I am particularly anxious to learn German. Now that I have broken the ice I hope someday to write you a genuine letter. Till then, Good bye—

Yours sympathizingly and affectionately,

Jane E.

Letters from Edward Hitchcock to Governor Henry J. Gardner #303-305

Letter 303

[EH to Governor Henry Gardner n.d., ca. 1855, EOH, Box 4: folder 35]

To his Excellency
Henry J. Gardner

Sir,

I take the liberty of presenting to the Government a Geological Report on the Sandstone of Connecticut Valley especially on the Fossil Footmarks formed in it.

It may be proper for me to state that in 1852 I received a commission from Governor Boutwell to explore the Surface Geology of the state and \$500 were voted by the Legislature to pay the expenses of exploration. As the subject was mainly scientific I was to receive no compensation for my services. But it was understood that I should be allowed ample time in which to do the work and also that I might explore any other point in our Geology which needed farther elucidation. Accordingly in 1853 I made a Report upon the Coal Fields of Massachusetts and the age of the Berkshire Iron Ore as discovered from certain fossil fruits found in Vermont.

I have not neglected Surface Geology but...

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...being under partial agreement to the Smithsonian Institution earlier than 1852 to present a paper in that subject embracing a wider range than Massachusetts I presented it nearly two years ago and it is now nearly through the press a thin quarto volume of perhaps 150 pages and twelve Plates; a copy of which I hope ere long to have the pleasure of presenting to the Government:

[the following crossed out]

...and should it have occasion for additional copies they can be easily secured.

The sandstone of the Connecticut Valley has proved a very difficult rock to locate upon the geological scale. It is now nearly 40 years since I began to study it and others had studied it earlier. Recent discoveries have awakened a deeper interest in the subject partly because the decision of the geological questions has an important economical bearing and partly because I am very anxious to settle the exact age of those remarkable footmarks so common in this sandstone and which have exerted a deep interest in the learned world—and indeed among all intelligent men on both sides of the Atlantic. I reported up on these in 1839 so far as these fossils were then known and the Government very liberally ordered the illustrations necessary to give them a fair exhibition. Such great and marvelous developments on this subject have been made since that time that I could but believe that a Report of its present state would be acceptable to the Government and that they would prefer to illustrate this singular chapter in the pre-adamic history of the state rather than leave it to be done by foreign scientific bodies. Hence in 1854 (voted in council July 28) I obtained permission from Governor Washburn and Council to appropriate \$100 out of the \$500 referred to above for the purpose of obtaining drawings of these footmarks. But I have been slow to execute this commission because it was not till a year ago that I was able to bring together a larger collection of these fossils. I have laboured hard upon them during the year and this Report upon the sandstone and its footmarks is the result. I am sorry that it is still so imperfect; but I trust that the great features of the subject are brought out and should the Government think them worthy of publication all the details can soon be supplied.

It may be proper to add that up to this time I have received \$151.60 of the \$500...

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...appropriated in 1852 for my expenses and have just presented an additional bill for \$68.86 more. If this be allowed there will still remain \$279.54 unexpended which if managed economically may do much more towards developing the scientific geology of the state.

With high respect

I am

Obediently yours

E. Hitchcock

Letter 304

[EH to Governor Henry Gardner n.d., ca. 1855, EOH, Box 4: folder 35]

To his Excellency

Henry J Gardner,

Governor of the Commonwealth:

Sir, I take the liberty of presenting to the government of the state, a geological report on the Sandstone of the Connecticut Valley, and especially on the fossil footmarks found in it.

I beg leave to state that in 1852 I received a commission from Governor Boutwell to examine the Surface Geology of the state; and five hundred dollars were voted by this legislature to meet the expenses of exploration. As the subject was mainly scientific I was to receive no compensation for my services. But it was understood that I should have ample time allowed me in...

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...which to do the work, and also that I might explore any other point in our geology which needed farther elucidation. Accordingly, in 1853, I made a report on the Coal Fields of Massachusetts; and the age of the Berkshire Iron Ore, as deduced from certain fossil fruits found in Vermont.

I have not neglected Surface Geology: But being under partial engagement to the Smithsonian Institution, earlier than 1852, to publish a paper on that subject, embracing a wider range than Massachusetts, I presented it nearly two years since, and a quarto of 155 pages and 12 plates, has just been issued. This Report I should have offered to the Government of Massachusetts had it not been for a previous engagement; and should they judge it to possess merit enough to make it desirable to place it in the libraries of the state, I doubt not that copies could be obtained of the Smithsonian institution at a reasonable rate; or should my present report be published, perhaps the same object might be accomplished by exchange, with only a slight expense...

[gap]

...is now nearly 40 years since I began to study it, and others began earlier. Recent discoveries have awakened a deeper interest in the question of its position; partly because its decision might lead us to hope to find coal in it, and partly because I am very anxious to settle the exact age of those remarkable footmarks so common in this sandstone, and which have excited a deep interest on both sides of the Atlantic. I reported upon these in 1839, and the legislature very liberally ordered the illustrations necessary to give them a fair exhibition. Such great and marvelous developments have been made on this subject since that time, that I have supposed a report of its present state would be acceptable to the Government, and that they would prefer to illustrate this singular chapter in the pre-adamic history of the state, rather than leave it to be done by scientific associations here or elsewhere. Hence in 1854, I obtained permission from Governor Washburn and Council (voted July 28th) to appropriate one hundred dollars out of the five hundred referred to above for the purpose of obtaining...

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...drawings of these footmarks. But I have been slow to execute this commission because it was not till a year ago that I was able to bring together a large collection of these fossils. I have laboured hard upon them during the year, and this report upon the sandstone and its footmarks is the result. I am sorry that it is still so imperfect: but I trust that the great features of the subject are brought out, and should the government think them worthy of publication, all the details can be supplied.

It may be proper to add that up to this time I have received \$151.60 of the \$500 appropriated in 1852 for my expenses, and have just presented an additional bill of \$68.86. If this be allowed, there will still remain \$279.54 unexpended, which, if managed economically, may do much more towards developing the scientific geology of the state.

With high respect

I am

Obediently yours

Edward Hitchcock

Amherst April 1st 1857

Letter 305

[EH to Governor Henry Gardner n.d., ca. 1855, EOH, Box 4: folder 35]

To his Excellency
Henry J. Gardner
Governor of Massachusetts

Honored Sir.

This volume may not improperly be regarded as my preliminary Report on the Surface Geology of Massachusetts. But as it contains numerous facts obtained in other parts of the country and the world on this difficult subject, and most of which were collected before I received a Commission from Governor Boutwell in 1853 and while I was receiving some aid from the Smithsonian Institution, I have put the results into their hands. Moreover, the subject being almost exclusively scientific, and having little to do, apparently, with the economic interests of the state (though we cannot tell how closely...

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...practical interests may follow scientific discovery) I do not feel justified in presenting a report to the Government whose cost of publication must necessarily be great, with all the needful illustrations until I have explored the whole state. The Smithsonian Institution, however, having for its broad commission the increase and diffusion of knowledge among men, is willing to receive and bring out such a production as the present which is more elementary and general in its character than a report on a particular district could be. It may therefore prepare the way for a Report on the Surface Geology of the whole of Massachusetts should Providence permit me to finish the requisite explorations; and if not it contains a great amount of details that would aid a future geologist following in the same track. I lament that my progress in this work has been so slow. But at my time of life I find myself incapable of making those extra efforts which I could once sustain; and moreover, other objects of geological interest have divided my strength; such as the measurement of sections across the Connecticut valley, and new researches upon the fossil footmarks of that region. On both these points I have collected many new facts and I hope the Government may have the patience with me and allow me to delay results on difficult subjects till I can bring them into a satisfactory shape. For, if my progress is slow, my expenses thus far have been small; since less than half of the original appropriation has yet been expended.

With high respect.

I subscribe myself

Your devoted servant

Letter from Henry M. Storrs to Edward Hitchcock, Jr. #306

Letter 306

[Henry M. Storrs to EHJ, March 10, 1864, EOH, Series 1-D, Box 2: folder 6]

Cincinnati March 10th 1864

Professor Edw. Hitchcock M.D.

My dear brother,

The documents and letters of 5th inst. from you reached us today. I returned the signatures "immediately" as requested.

We see that father concluded to supersede the will dated as far back as May. Doubtless he did it for good reasons. This one seems doubtfully expressed at one or two points; two or three indeed admitting of double construction. Written so late in life, when his mental powers were abating somewhat, this is scarcely to be wondered at. It may be the same was true of the "May" will. Never having seen it or heard it, of course I do not know.

Catha had supposed it Father's intention to make fuller provision for Mary and Jane and Emily as unmarried. However, what he has done he has doubtless done considerately, and with good wisdom on his part and good understanding on theirs. As the property on Father's estimate (copyrights, library, home cabinet philosophical instruments, old furniture, horse, etc.) amounts to between \$21,000 and \$23,000 dollars and Father...

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was not constitutionally likely to overestimate his possessions, there ought to be a sufficiency for the girls brought out of it.

You and Charles, I know, will exercise the best of judgment and good sense for them. I am glad and grateful that Father made you his executor and kept the whole matter thus inside the family. The good man's heart cherished the family feeling very strongly. It breathes through this whole will. You like Catha, have doubtless remarked the fact that the will leaves nothing to objects (say of Charity or missions). He had made his donations all along in his life. He had been generous to objects outside while living, and saving in toward family; so that he felt whatever was left belonged to it.

I am glad the house is likely to remain just so until Catha shall once more have the saddened pleasure of revisiting and reviewing it. I should be well satisfied, too, to have my family enjoy the salutary and sanitary effects of summering there at Amherst again. I hope things in the house will remain so far as possible in status quo till then.

How swift we also are being borne on this life. It is already nearly a half month since father met the opening splendors and the exalted glories of Heaven, and entered it, blessed and secure in unspeakable

happiness; what shall we say. In a day—an hour—we too may have bid “farewell to earth.” God grant us to see his face in glory born as our Father now beholds it.

Very affectionately, your brother,

H. M. Storrs

PS: I meant to have said something about the literary remains of Father and their disposition, as to his wishes and directions, but enough for now.

Letters to and from Edmund M. Blunt #307-314.

[Several letters between Edward Hitchcock and Edmund M. Blunt were published in the *American Monthly Magazine* and are therefore not transcribed here.]

Letter 307

[Edmund M. Blunt to EH, December 19, 1818, EOH, Series 2-A, Box 3, Folder 3]

Dear Sir,

Your esteemed favor was duly received and my apology for not immediately expressing it is indisposition at the time, added to close application, printing the Nautical Almanac for 1820, copy of which I send you as a final complement for the services you have rendered the public.

In our late controversy, which terminates satisfactorily to both advantages have acquitted and we were both on the right side. When I commenced publishing the Almanac it was deemed correct, and I believe justly so – After the death of the late Astronomer Royal it depreciated very much and was not discovered for many years, and probably never would but for the interest you and others have taken in the business, but might remained in silence to the damage of the world. Soon as discovered, every exertion in my power was made to retrieve its reputation, the result of which I leave the public to appreciate and the remarks you have made to the public are...

[Page 2]

...founded on fact, have had an effect on the prejudices of many, and will undoubtedly to continue till a statement is made disclosing where the errors originated, that they were corrected, and if the American edition is entitled to credit no one can do it more justice neither can it have greater weight than will be provided by the pen of Mr. Hitchcock.

Should I ever journey in your neighborhood the kind invitation given will be remembered and it will give me great pleasure in seeing you as your friend in this city. With a sincere wish that all your desires may be accomplished and much happiness experienced.

I am,

Your friend and obd svt,

Edm. M. Blunt

Letter 308

[EH to Edmund M. Blunt, draft, 1819, EOH, Series 2-B, Box 4, Folder 23]

Having lately had occasion to calculate some altitudes of the moon and stars for correcting lunar distances, I made use of the notes in your valuable treatise of Navigation Pages 194-195 First Edition in which it is stated that the difference of R. A.s between the moon or star and that of the meridian is the star's distance from the meridian. I had no doubt of the accuracy of this in every case until the following question occurred.

Required the altitude of Aldebaran October 28, 1817

At	9 – 21 – 22 P.M. apparent time
RA	+ 14 – 09 – 57

R. A. M.	23 – 31 – 19
Star's R.A.	- 4 – 27 – 03

Star From Meridian	19 – 06 – 12

Now this is manifestly incorrect for Aldebaran passed the meridian about 2 hours 15 minutes past midnight which would make its distance east of the Meridian in R.A. 4 hr. at the preceding time. ~~So it is misapprehended the meaning of your note or is it a small object in the nite itself.~~ If to the stars R.A. we add 24 hours and take the difference between this sum and the R. A. M. it will give the stars true distance from the meridian agreeing with that deduced from the time of the stars passing the meridian.

So I misapprehend sir the meaning of your rule or is it a small object in the rule itself. If I do understand it I should suppose there was other case when it would not apply viz. when the R.A.M. was 1 or 2 hours and the R.A. of the star or moon near 24. This error (if it is one) would not I am sensible lead any one into error who is moderately skilled in the theory of astronomy; but there are many navigators as well as other calculators who act only mechanically and might therefore be affected by it.

I have also observed in the 2nd note in the bottom of page 155 for finding moon accurately the moon's correct altitude from the apparent. That there is no use made of the moons horizontal parallax taken from the Nautical Almanack; but that the correction for parallax and refraction is taken from Table 27. Now as that table is calculated only for the parallax 57' 30" would not the numbers taken from it sometimes vary one or two minutes from the truth? From these considerations I am induced to suppose there is some omission in that note. If I am incorrect and do not understand your meaning with respect to the above subject...

[Page 2]

In working which [????] to determine the Longitude of the planet when the star was used I had attempted to calculate the altitude of the star.

[The remainder of the page is illegible.]

Letter 309

[EH to Edmund M. Blunt, draft, 1819, EOH, Series 2-B, Box 4, Folder 23]

Sir,

In your edition of the Nautical Almanac for year 1814 I have discovered the following error.

For the 16th page at the bottom I find the place heliocentric and geocentric longitude and latitude declination and passage of the meridian of the planet Herschel thus expressed.

Days longitude latitude longitude latitude blank passage
 One 7-20 9-7 space 0-11 space 8-1-56 space 0-11 space 20-21.5 space 18-58
 11 space 7-20 9-15 space 0-11 space eight - 2-12 space 0-11 space 20-27 space 18-19
 12 space 7-20 9-22 space 0-11 space eight - 2-22 space 0-11 space 20-29 space 17-47

Days	Heliocentric		Geocentric		Declin.	Passage Meridian
	Long. d-h-m	Lat.	Long.	Lat.		
1	7-29-7	0-11	8-1-56	0-11	20-24	18-58
11	7-29-15	0-11	8-2-12	0-11	20-27	18-19
12	7-29-22	0-11	8-2-22	0-11	20-29	17-41

The difference between heliocentric motions of the Georgian planet for one day between the 11th and 12th as given above is seven minutes of a degree being but one minute less than its motion for the

preceding days that is between the 18th and 19th. Now taking the order of revolution of Herschel [????] we get only 42 seconds from its mean daily heliocentric motion. It cannot be increased to two minutes heliocentric when in perihelion. The geocentric motion, the increase of the declination and the difference of time of the planets passing the Meridian as given above between the 11th and 12 will also be found nearly equal to the variations in those motions for the preceding days. From these facts then it is evident either that the place of Herschel is not correctly given on the 12th parentheses (supposing its place and 11th to be correct) or is that instead of the 12th it should be some other day. And as it is the uniform practice in the Nautical Almanack to give the place of the Georgian planet for the first 11th and 21st days I have no doubt that instead of the 12th as given in your addition it should be 21st.

Now on the first page of any month of your addition I observe your promise that [????] dollars will be paid on the discovery of an error. Confirming in your character as a gentleman and believing that justice will be done me.

Mr. Edmund M. Blunt Esq. I am sir respectfully your humble servant

Letter 310

[EH to Edmund M. Blunt, draft, October 29, 1816, EOH, Series 2-B, Box 4, Folder 23]

Deerfield October 29th 1816

Sir,

Since I received your letter of the 20th April 1814 I have been so much engaged that I have not found time to write an answer . But having now a convenient opportunity to send by the M. W. Cooley of New York, I have concluded to address you again on the subject of your edition of the Nautical almanack.

I thank you for the copies the Almanack you sent me though I had obtained some of the same years previously. I must mention however that in the copy for 1815 that you sent me all the calculations for August were for August 1814. This I suppose to be a mistake of the bookbinder. If however a navigator had taken that copy and gone into the Pacific Ocean before he discovered his error what would he have done had he no other copy? It is most probable however that he would not have discovered the error till his vessel had foundered or crashed among the rocks.

With regard to the correction of the errors mentioned in your letter I have not noted any except one which was evidently altered with a pen and how could errors be corrected after the copies were distributed through the union and many of them sold?

You mentioned that we are all liable to errors and point out one in my letter. I must observe that I did not "pledge my reputation" that my letter should not in one instance deviate from the truth neither did I offer a reward of \$10 for the discovery of an error. If I had I should have paid the discover of it. That "error is the lot of man" I do not doubt, yet it is also true that by care errors may be much reduced and the fact that man is not perfect should make him very cautious how he promised and very strict to fulfill them when made.

Your assertion that your whole attention was directed to such parts of the almanac as relate to seamen astonished me. What would the astronomers and surveyors say if they knew this? The edition of Adam Garrett was not thus defective.

I shall now proceed to point out some errors in the Almanack for 1816 and 1817. I have only glanced over these copies and therefore shall probably discover more errors upon closer inspection. The first error is in the second page preceding the first page of the month of January. Five chronological cycles, Ember Days, and twelve Moveable Feasts are wrong, answering to 1812 instead of 1816. It is unnecessary to go into labored proof – a glance of the eye will show it.

The next error is on the 66th page of the same almanack. The moon's declination on the 19th of August at noon is stated to be 16 minutes north whereas it should be $2^{\circ} 15' 40''$ following calculations will show

To find the moon's declination June 19, 1816 at noon from her longitude and latitude

Moon's Long. By Almanack $0.15^{\circ} 21' 1''$
Lat. 4 31 19 South

[calculations]

The next place of errors is on the 136th page in the left hand column near the bottom where the number 21 is put in the place of 31 and nothing when there should be 21. The latitude of the Georgian is also omitted against the 21st day. These errors are evident to inspection.

The next error is on the 43rd page of the Almanack for 1817. Against the 15th April the moon parallax at midnight is stated as $53' 7''$ when it should be $53' 57''$. This will appear by setting down from the Almanack the differences of the parallax for a day or two.

Moon's Par. At Midnight April 13 th	54' 17''	7-
Ditto moon April 14 th	54 10	6-
Ditto midnight Ditto	54 4	4-
Ditto noon April 15 th	54 0	53-
Ditto midnight Ditto	53 7	48+
Ditto noon April 16 th	53 55	0
Ditto midnight ditto	53 55	

Supposing the parallax $53' 57''$ April 15th at midnight the differences will stand thus:

-7
-6
-4
-3

-2
-0

This last is a regular decrease; but the former is impossible from the nature of the moon's motion.

The next error is on the 109th page of the same Almanack in the right hand where it is stated that on the 23rd day the sun enters Mx; which is impossible. It should be M. This does not require proof.

The first class of errors above pointed out affects chronologists – the second fourth fifth and sixth astronomers as they are all in the figures. The obligations of honor would require that I should receive the promised reward for these and all others that I have pointed out. I did hope that after the errors in the former editions were known no more would be made for they are evidently such as care can prevent. In such case I should have felt amply compensated for my trouble without any other reward.

I shall expect an answer to this but if you do not consider my notice and do not hear from you soon the public may from me and you from the public.

To Edmond M. Blunt Esq.
Editor of the Nautical Almanac
City of N. York

[More calculation of the declination of the moon below]

Letter 311

[EH to Edmund M. Blunt, draft, April, 1814, EOH, Series 7-B, AC Common Place Book, Box 18, Folder 6, pp. 229-232]

Page 1 (numbered 229)

Letter to Edmund M. Blunt Esq. of the city of N. York, editor of the Nautical Almanack

Deerfield, April – 1814

Sir,

I wrote you sometime since pointing out two errors in your edition of the Nautical Almanack for 1814. Viz. In the 16th page, in the left hand column at the bottom, there is the number 12 where there should be 21; and on the 37th page Venus is put down twice stationary – a thing impossible in the same month. It ought to be Mercury which is stationary on the 15th. As I have no reason to doubt but you have received my letter I shall not enlarge upon these errors.

Page 2 (numbered 230)

Since writing to you I have discovered the following twelve additional errors. For all the months from March to August, including them both, on the III pages of the months, the eclipses of Jupiter's first and second satellites are stated to be *immersions*, whereas they should be *emersions*. The truth of this is

manifest from the fact that after the opposition of Jupiter there are no immersions of the first and second satellites visible as it is very clearly expressed in page 153 of the Nautical Almanack. "Before the opposition the immersions only of the first satellite are visible; and after the opposition the emersions only. The same is generally the case with respect to the second satellite." Now Jupiter passed his opposition on the 23rd astronomical day of February, and does not reach his conjunction with the sun till the 15th September. In the intermediate time therefore there are no immersions of his first and second satellites visible on the earth.

Having always considered the Nautical Almanack as a work of standard excellence, and distinguished for its accuracy as one on which...

Page 3 (numbered 231)

...the astronomer places almost implicit confidence in his most delicate calculations, and on which the sailor risks his life, I scarcely know what to think when I perceive so many errors in your edition, which are apparently press errors. If there are so many mistakes so manifest as not to escape my feeble observation and the little attention I have given to an examination of the Almanack, must I not conclude that in the more profound calculations which it contains errors are equally numerous? And if so, what confidence can be placed upon any of them? From the consideration that you had pledged your reputation "for the correctness of the edition of the Almanack which you published, and from the reward of ten dollars offered on the first page of every month for the discovery of an error, I at least hoped that you would have written one a line of explanation. If twelve more errors are considered not worthy of a line from you, must I not consider it a duty to point them out to the world through the public papers? Ought not men of science and navigators be put upon their guard against placing unreserved confidence in a work which contains so many errors? By doing this perhaps it might lead to the discovery of other...

Page 4 (numbered 232)

...errors of more consequence, and thus save the astronomer from many a tedious and vexatious hour of study and the mariner from destruction.

I do not mean to insinuate by these observations that you are incompetent to publish an edition of the Nautical Almanack. On the contrary your distinguished rank among the publishers of nautical works (I have particular reference to the editions of that most accurate and valuable work Bowditch's Navigator) seems to mark you out as a fit person for such an undertaking. But I cannot bear to see such a standard work as the Nautical Almanack disgraced by press errors.

Respectfully Sir,
Your humble servant
Edward Hitchcock

Edmund M. Blunt Esq.
Editor of the
Nautical Almanack

Letter 312

[Edmund M. Blunt to EH, draft, April 20, 1814, EOH, Series 7-B, AC Common Place Book, Box 18, Folder 6, pp. 232-3]

Page 1 (numbered 232)

Mr. Blunt's Answer

New York April 20th 1814

Sir,

Yours by the hand of a gentleman whom I did not know, was duly received – We are all liable to errors, for you refer me to page 10...

Page 2 (numbered 233)

...whereas the page is 16, and has been corrected together with the others, except those which were copied from the English Edition. In publishing the Nautical Almanack my whole attention is confined to such parts as related to seamen, and if I err it must be attributed to the *lot of man*, for nothing is wanting on my part, to make it correct. Your motive is laudable, and I beg you to accept my thanks.

Respectfully,

Your obd. Servant:

Edm. M. Blunt

P.S. Permit my begging your acceptance of a copy for 1815.

Letter 313

[Edmund M. Blunt to EH, typescript, July 27, 1818, EOH, Series 2-A, Box 3, Folder 3]

Addressed to Edward Hitchcock Esq. Deerfield, Mass.

New York, ~~July 27~~ (Dec 19), 1818

Dr. Sir.

I still perceive your perseverance towards perfection, and hope you may receive the reward merited – Perfection is not the lot of man; when I commenced publishing the Nautical Almanac the copy was generally considered correct, which induced me, as a publisher to pledge my reputation no deviation should be made from it, and I know of no deviation. You say “the Chronological Cycles etc have been compared with the London copy and found as you put them down” – In justification of my Edition I observe that there were two Editions printed in London: soon after my Edition was ~~printed~~ published a gentleman from Newburyport (Mr Stedman) informed me I had committed an error, and produced an English Edition to justify his demands. I immediately handed him my copy compared every letter and not even a point was different. From our controversy much benefit is derived to the public and I sensibly feel myself under obligation for the discoveries made, a great part of my life has been devoted to figures, and if I have erred no blame should be attached to me, for in the numerous editions of the Navigator Mr. Bowditch has been pleased to say my work well done. I have two copies Almanac for 1820 in the hands of two persons for examination and should be pleased if you would look at one before it goes to press, when I guarantee perfection as the publisher – My acknowledgments to you will appear in next magazine, and from this will present the Almanac yearly

With great respect

Your obdt. sevt

Edm. M Blunt.

[The following note is included in the typescript copy, apparently written by Edward Hitchcock, Jr.]

Note by E.Hitchcock jr.

The interest which this volume has to the Hitchcock family, is, that when this Blunts Nautical Almanac was published, the author offered a (then) large reward to any one who would discover an error in it.

Our father - then the simple Edward Hitchcock- made several important corrections, & pointed out errors which Mr Blunt in a very supercilious way endeavored to cry down in the public print but he was at last compelled to admit their correctness even to his enemies as is seen by the accompanying letter of Mr. E. M. Blunt.

Letter 314

[Edmund M. Blunt to EH, draft, July 27, 1818, EOH, Series 7-B, Box 18, Folder 5, pp. 92-138]

Page 1 (numbered 92)

Correction of Errors

In

The Nautical Almanack

Blunt's Edition

In addition to above seventy errors published in the American Monthly Magazine for Dec 1817 & Feb 1818 I have discovered an equal number in the Almanacks for 1815, 16, 17, 18, 19 and have taken the following methods to prove them. See appendix to Bowditch's Navigator.

[There follow about 40 numbered pages of errors and corrections from the Nautical Almanac, editions 1815 – 1818.]

Letters to Asa Gray #315-316.

Letter 315

[EH to Asa Gray, from Biodiversity.org, Harvard University Botany Libraries]

Amherst March 23rd 1846 [E Hitchcock in pencil]

Dear Sir,

I send herewith a specimen of the *Nyssa* exhibiting the differences in direction of the successive layers. The divergence in the present stance is 20 degrees but I have specimens where it is greater.

I also enclose a specimen of the spongy mass from a pond in Worcester from which paper is made. Can you without too much trouble inform me what it is?

I am glad to hear of your proposed improvement in your Botany. That accomplished and it will stand decidedly above all works on the subject for our higher seminaries of learning.

It may interest you to learn that we are at present enjoying a very delightful season of special religious interest in our college. But it leaves me no time for scientific matters.

Respectfully and sincerely yours,

Edward Hitchcock

Address: Professor Asa Gray, Cambridge

Letter 316

[EH to Asa Gray, from Biodiversity.org, Harvard University Botany Libraries]

Amherst, September 12th, 1855 [E Hitchcock in pencil]

Dear Sir,

I recently found quite a cluster of *Spartina* growing on the rocky banks of Connecticut river in an obscure place in South Hadley; of course far above tide water. It is full five feet high, but I cannot make it agree well either with *S. cynosuroides* or *glabra*, though it comes nearer the former. The spikes are from 8 to 10, alternate, and pedunculate.

Now I have never seen this genus out of salt marshes and the simple enquiry I wish to make is whether its occurrence in any place away from the sea would indicate salt in the soil? It occurs upon the red shale of this valley which has been supposed to be Trias, which in other countries is the seat of salt-springs or solid rock salts. I thought it possible that this grass might lead to some such discovery in the present case; but I am too rusty in botany to decide the question and therefore venture to ask your opinion.

Respectfully and sincerely yours,

Edward Hitchcock

P.S. I had neglected to look into Torrey's Flora till this moment where I find the S. cynosuroides mentioned as growing about Albany and the S. glabra high up the Missouri; so that I suppose my enquires are answered. If I do not hear from you I shall consider them so.