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This collection also included two images:

- 1) Cabinet card of Lucy Moulton (HUBBARD) HITCHCOCK (1827-1898)
- 2) Margaret "Maggie" (NEWTON) Van COTT (1830-1914)

*Transcription of letters*

*Accession #2013-20*

*Where italicized the transcriptionist is adding information that is not on the item. Where underlined, the transcriptionist is guessing or could not read the handwriting.* KMO'Connor – September 2013

***Envelope:***

**[To]** Miss Celia L. Hubbard *[aka Laura – sister of Mrs. Grant]*  
Windsor VT

**[From]** James Grant

Davenport  
21 June 1845

Dear Celia

We have just received a paper which says you are not coming home this fall, which I very much regret. I hope you have not fallen in love with \_\_\_\_\_ of the Green Mountain boys for there are too many of you in Vermont now.

? \_\_\_\_\_

I am always complaining. I have the Dyspepsia very bad, and eat bran bread all the time: this is Sunday; wife has gone to church and as I am staying at home in consequence of a pain in my face & sinus of you have written to me for a long time I have concluded to inflict a sig\_\_\_\_\_ of nonsense on you.

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I have just fell into a stream of good luck. I have a contract for surveying ten townships of land on which I can make one thousand dollars. How I do wish Guy was here. He could make two dollars and a half a day for the next four months – Father is going out about this middle of July. He is very busy getting everything ready for a trip. I shall be gone all this fall and I do wish you were here with wife and mother.

I have been appointed District Prosecutor and if I am keeping \_\_\_\_\_ District Attorney I can do pretty well. I am trying to buy Burrow's house but I suppose (if he knows that I want it) he hates me so that he will not let me have it. Collins is negotiating the trade for me. I should feel very comfortable and happy just now if I was well but this pain in my face almost \_\_\_\_\_ me mad.

Our town is filled with Fishermen and hunters from the South. Miller expects to make money this fall: poor man he just been kicked nearly to death by a horse.

Mercie Jane Webb is going to marry Wylde the Engraver: just think January May.

\_\_\_\_\_ lives in it. He is now building \_\_\_\_\_ good bridges across Duck Creek and the old one will soon be pulled down. I suppose Jerry will make money in his job: at least I hope so.

Father's health is some better, and he is very much taken with the idea of surveying. He will not stay out long the first time as it is very warm weather. I expect if he and I both go away wife will break up house keeping. We talk some of her and father going to Vermont next year: I have bought a match to my black horse, and if not sold before father will take the pair East. They look very fine. I commenced thinking I would fill the church but my face aches so I must give it up.

Your aff Bro

Jas Grant

Since writing the forgoing your letter of \_\_\_\_\_ has come to \_\_\_\_\_.

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You wish to know my opinion about your staying in Vermont until spring. Why I just have no opinion about it; it would be very agreeable to have you here this fall as your father and I will be away; but if you can be benefitted by staying, all hands are willing to forgo it. But as to your staying for any other purpose than to go to school it is not to be thought of for a moment. You can learn all that you ever want to know about clothesmaking \_\_\_\_\_ at home and all the time you devote to it beyond what you could learn in your own family is so much lost. It is very proper that you should know all about the ordinary clothesmaking of a family, but to learn / have the trade of a milliner for the purpose of a livelihood is out of the question with you: in the first place your health would not permit it; in the next your situation is not such as to render it necessary, and I never heard anybody think of following it for any other reason. \_\_\_\_\_  
you may be of \_\_\_\_\_ of a competency and if we should die before you any woman of your beauty and educated as you ought to be, and can be, if you choose can, in this western country, marry the first gentlemen of society, not the first in wealth but the first in morals and manners, and capacity to make a woman happy.

J Grant

Tuesday eve 23 or 25

Dear Sister

Your good letter was received this morning, and never did a letter do me so much good. I hope I get some degree of gratitude for the blessed news from Laura. I was expecting to carry the letter to Mother this evening but must resign the privilege to Mr. G and go and watch with Mrs. L\_\_\_\_\_ Miller who is very low. Mother is at work again as hard as ever, though not yet as strong as before her sickness. Lucy is with her much of the time, and is very kind and attentive. You have no idea how much she improves in every respect. Yesterday I went out in the coach sun \_\_\_\_\_ about 3 p.m. assisted a little, then went to Jersey Ridge and brought home a girl about the age and size you was when I last saw you. I think she will be of great service to me. \_\_\_\_\_

help from her I have done a four weeks ironing this hot day such a one as you used to do for me with your poor weak back. Ruth (for that is her name) has lived among Quakers I guess, she says "does thee

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wipe thy dishes on this cloth?" "I will take some more butter, if thee pleases." She is a cousin of the Lamberts – You see Mr. Grant has answered your question with his usual frankness. I agree with him, and hope you and all the rest will, upon reflection. You certainly are capable of making yourself useful enough so far as skill in the use of a needle can make you so, but there is no danger of you being too well educated. If you was here now, even if you had acquired the trade, we should all agree that you must devote a large share of your time to study.

I do want to see you all prodigiously – and hope to visit you sometime. It is easy to make calculations for next year, but no one knows what may be our condition when the time comes. I should be glad to think I should go this fall – if husband goes to Washington I shall not be willing to stay here. I grow more and more babyish – cannot bear to be left at all. Sometimes I fear I am guilty of idolatry—Mrs. Kingoles' children and many others have whooping cough and are quite sick. I think I wrote that Wm. Eldridge has gone off with the Mormans. Capt. Hawley has sold his farm and is trying to get ready to follow. Dr. Brown and wife are deeply affected. I will send you a paper containing a letter from Elder Fisher if I can find it—

Everything around is beautiful to look upon. The earth is covered with beauty. I have flowers of every hue in the yard, my vine rose full of blossoms, very pretty. I can't collect my thoughts so as to write one half I want to. Ruth is sitting by me and talking most of the time. Lucy gets along pretty well with sewing but cannot find a girl yet. I am sorry for them but it is a dish of their own cooking and can't be helped. She is blithe and happy so I ought to be contented. Tell Mrs. Dudley I wish she had a little common sense. There is a great lack of the article in this world, in this part of it specially! As time will show in a multitude of cases – Mr. Center has moved into Mr. Newcomb's house. I seldom see Mrs. Webb of late. She is very foolish to allow her little girl to think of matrimony. Mr. Wilde is nearly or quite 40, she 15. "youth and old age" or as husband says Jan. and May!

All your friends are as usual. I hope Guy will write to Frank Bennett. He is wandering I fear.

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Dear sister Laura, pray for me, that I may begin anew and be more faithful to my Savior. I have lived too long in idleness and stupidity. May you never go so far from the way of duty; Be watchful prayerful, I know there is our only safety. May my dear brother Kendall soon enjoy this true and lasting peace, and may the family altar soon be erected in your house. O! pray for my dear husband. Shall I never see him a humble Christian – I have found precious encouragement in the Bible to pray, and hope; God can open his eyes and I pray that \_\_\_ will \_\_\_ him his condition

In love I remain, dear sister, your own Ida

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