

# The Hall Letters

Describing the Careers of 19th-century Musicians,  
D.C. Hall and Rhodolph Hall of Lyme, New Hampshire

From the "Hall Family Papers in the Collections of  
Henry Ford Museum & Greenfield Village."

Edited by Robert E. Eliason



## Foreword

The letters come from a collection of Hall family memorabilia discovered in a New Haven, Connecticut stamp dealer's shop about 1940. In 1981 this collection was acquired by the Henry Ford Museum, Dearborn, Michigan, from Mr. Frank O. Spinney, retired president of Old Sturbridge Village, Sturbridge, Massachusetts. The collection includes 373 letters and 106 programs, advertisements, dance cards, and newspaper clippings dating from 1835 to 1896. Most of the letters from this source were transcribed from manuscript by Museum Volunteer Audrey Convey.

About 30 other letters came from a collection of family history documents belonging to Mrs. Harold E. Whitcher, Hamden, Connecticut, a descendant of the Hall family. Letters with a W after the number were copied from this collection.

### Family History

John Hall (1778-1863), father of the musicians, was of the 6th generation in a line of Halls beginning with George Hall who immigrated from Devonshire, England to Taunton, Massachusetts in 1636. John Hall came with his parents and family by oxcart to Lyme, New Hampshire from Connecticut in 1792. Shortly after 1800 he married Mary Culver. They lived on the family farm at the northwest corner of the junction of Pinnacle and Orfordville roads and inherited this farm when John's father died in 1819.

During the period of the letters, the Hall family consisted of the following:

Mary (1806-1889), husband Alvah Jeffers (1804-1880) living nearby in Lyme.

Thomas II (1810-1888), wife Emily Breck (1813-1853) also living nearby.

Ann W., often called Nancy (1814-1898), husband William P. Morey (?-1880) living in Roxbury, Massachusetts.

Sarah S. (1817-1895), married Robert Spear January 20, 1854, lived in Brunswick, Maine and Baltimore, Maryland.

Lucy F. (1819-1897), married Samuel Johnson (c1815-c1888) May 9, 1850, lived in New Haven, Connecticut.

David C. (1822-1900), married Edna Brown c1855 and, after their divorce, Susan C. c1886. David (D.C.) lived mostly in or near Boston. In the 1880s he spent some of each year in San Diego, California.

Rhodolph (1824-1878), married Kate Morris (1833-1873) December 14, 1849.

(Three children died earlier and do not enter into the correspondence.)

The Hall homestead consisted of about 165 acres of hillside land that already by 1840 was proving less productive than new western land opened up by the Erie Canal and the railroads. A general decline in farming on the New Hampshire hillsides resulted in the return of much of this land to forest over the following 100 years. Although all of the younger Halls remembered their farm background fondly, opportunities in their various professions were mostly found elsewhere. Rhodolph attempted to keep the farm running after his parents died, but was not very successful.

The principal writers of the letters are the youngest three children, Rhodolph, David, and Lucy, although Sarah writes occasionally too. Lucy quickly becomes the center of family correspondence and it is to her that we are indebted for maintaining contact with the brothers and saving many of the letters. Letters that are missing in the sequence of numbers are those that the editor decided had no bearing on family or musical history. They may well have interest for other family or historical reasons, and remain available at the Henry Ford Museum.

## **Musical Setting**

The earliest American bands formed during and after the Revolution consisted of mostly woodwind instruments. Although the usual instrumentation was pairs of oboes, clarinets, French horns, bassoons and a drum; common variations were additional clarinets instead of oboes; bass clarinets, trombones or serpents instead of bassoons; and an occasional flute, trumpet or bugle. The usefulness of these bands was well established early in the century. They could play for all kinds of outdoor public events both military and civilian, and in addition were suitable for dancing, concerts, theater entertainment, and other indoor activities.

Beginning after 1815 inventions which improved brass instruments began to appear in American bands. The keyed bugle, invented in 1810, first made it possible for a brass instrument to carry the melody part. Various sized ophicleides (larger keyed bugles) which followed in the 1820s were able to play the lower parts. Valved brasses, first made about 1815, also were able to play all of the notes, and practical models were available in this country by the 1830s. The first all brass bands were formed in Boston and New York in the mid 1830s and spread rapidly throughout the country during the next 50 years.

It was the introduction of these improved brass instruments that first opened the way for the growth of American instrumental music. They were easy to play, inexpensive, readily available from American makers after 1840, and produced an almost immediately satisfactory result. More importantly, the bands easily formed with these new instruments filled a need in American society for a kind of music best described as functional. They played for things like military musters, fire brigade drills, parades, dances, church activities, political events, steamboat excursions, picnics, etc. Almost any event where people gathered was better with a band of music. Both the sight and sound of the new brass bands were more dramatic and exciting. The rapid spread of bands to every corner of the country began the training of large numbers of American instrumental musicians and played an important role in distributing a common musical culture. Until the phonograph and radio, only sheet music songs and the piano were

more important as a means of distributing the music Americans enjoyed.

The importance of these letters is in documenting the means by which Americans with no access to training in conservatories, court and church orchestras or military schools as in Europe were able to establish performing instrumental groups throughout the country and acquaint large numbers of the population with a surprisingly high level of musical culture. The activities of men like the Halls and hundreds of bands like those they played in and directed provided the training of musicians and education of audiences which made the Sousa era of fine band music possible. They created an American musical instrument making industry, provided the setting for the development of jazz, and ultimately were responsible for the instrumental music programs in American public schools.

### **Editor's Notes**

The letters are reproduced largely as they were written including spellings and punctuation. Where a correct spelling clarifies the meaning, the correction is made. Where references to people or places are made by initials only, the names, if known, are inserted in brackets. Where handwriting was illegible, any guess about a word is also in brackets. A dashed line in brackets indicates a word that could not be deciphered.

## Chronological career outline

D.C. Hall (1822-1900); Rhodolph Hall (1824-1878)

- 1836-1843 D.C. and Rhodolph, Lyme Town Band.  
1841 Both began playing for dancing around Lyme.  
1843-1846 Both join the Hartford, Connecticut Cornet Band.  
1844 D.C. leader of the Hartford Cornet Band.  
1845 D.C. leader of the New Haven, Connecticut brass band.  
1846 Rhodolph and D.C. play with Ned Kendall in New York.  
1846 Both travel with Spaulding's North American Circus.  
1847 Both go on a concert tour across New York with Ned Kendall and Dan Emmitt. D.C. returns to the circus.  
Rhodolph joins the Boston Brigade Band for the summer, then joins D.C. and the circus in New Orleans.  
1848 D.C. and Rhodolph travel with the North American Circus throughout the midwest as far as Kansas and Wisconsin.  
1849 Both play the winter dancing season around Lyme.  
D.C. leader of the Lowell, Massachusetts Brass Band beginning in the summer.  
Rhodolph leader of the New Haven, Connecticut Brass Band for the summer.  
1850 D.C. presented with a gold bugle by the Lowell Brass Band.  
Rhodolph leader of the Roxbury, Massachusetts Brass Band.  
Rhodolph plays the winter dancing season in western Vermont.  
1851-1852 D.C. and Rhodolph, Lowell Brass Band.  
1853-1880's D.C. leader of the Boston Brass Band.  
Rhodolph 2nd leader and soloist with the Boston Brass Band.  
Both play winter dancing seasons around Boston.  
1857 Boston Brass Band tour of midwest.  
1859 D.C. and Rhodolph tour midwest with Old Folks Concert Troup.  
1860 Old Folks Concert tour continues through the South.  
Rhodolph tours as soloist with a minstrel show through the South and Cuba.  
1861 Rhodolph tours England as soloist with Rumsey and Newcombs minstrels.  
D.C. leads a band for the summer at Saratoga Springs, New York.  
D.C. also begins making brass instruments.  
1862 D.C. and Rhodolph play the summer at Saratoga and winter dancing in Boston.  
1863 Rhodolph soloist on tour with Blaisdell Swiss Bell Ringers.  
John Hall of Lyme dies and Rhodolph buys the Lyme farm from the other heirs.  
1864-1865 Rhodolph tours California traveling via Panama.  
D.C. establishes the firm of Hall & Quinby, Musical Instrument Manufacturers.

- 1866 Rhodolph presented with a gold cornet; plays the summer at Saratoga. Rhodolph is broke from spending so much money running the Lyme farm.
- 1867 D.C. begins providing bands for the Long Island to Stonington steamers. Rhodolph leads bands for the summer at Saratoga.
- 1868 Rhodolph builds a new barn on Lyme farm.
- 1869 Rhodolph tours California again.
- 1870-1871 Rhodolph soloist with Peak Family Bell Ringers at a salary of \$75.00 per week. Tours again as far west as Colorado.
- 1872 Rhodolph tours midwest.
- 1873-1875 Rhodolph tours and works the steamers with D.C.
- 1876 The steamer band of the "Providence" presents Rhodolph a gold medal with diamond cluster.
- 1878 Rhodolph raising sheep on the Lyme farm in between engagements. Rhodolph dies in New Haven of Bright's disease.
- 1880's D.C. purchases the farm from the heirs.  
D.C. continues his instrument making business and leads the steamer bands.  
D.C. begins spending winters in California near San Diego.





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**Letters 4-20 (October 21, 1841 to October 25, 1844)**

Hall Letters 4.1W. Oct. 21, 1841; Lucy in Hartford to the family in Lyme.

Dear Parents, Brothers & Sisters:

For the first time & almost in a land of strangers I now employ the only means in my power of conversing with you and informing you of my journey, present prospects & c. As you may have learned I left Hanover about 4 1/2 o'clock Tuesday (after receiving my way bill to this place) & proceeded toward Winsor, Vt. with the velocity of (I had almost said) lightning for the horses were as fleet as the mountain deer & riding alone upon the back seat. I am of opinion that I received many additional phrenological bumps for often (sitting carelessly) was I tossed so that my head struck the top of the stage & almost knocked me sensible, at least that I was but a lump of vanity.

I passed through many towns I know not their names along the beautiful Connecticut ere I reached Winsor where we arrived about 8 o'clock. There we waited 2 hours for the arrival of the mail & at ten crossed over upon the N.H. side of the river & proceeded to Claramont where they again changed stages & here for the first time I had some company who rode as far as Charleston. Again I found myself alone & so continued nearly 1/2 of the way.

Onward we went & yet on through every variety of riding sometimes gliding smoothly across a sandy plain & then ascending the steep mountain side.

Perhaps you will imagine that I became rather sleepy about this time, But no, I could no more sleep than if I had been raked up amid the never ending thunderings of Visuvius. At Brattleboro we arrived at 8 in the morning & by this time I was tired, lame & sick I assure you for as I expected along toward morning I became sick but not so far as to vommit. I could eat nothing & therefore called for nothing. At 2 o'clock we dined at Northampton giving 2/0 & I eat but a very little. We passed through Deerfield & there saw the only building that remained after the burning of that place by the Indians. It is surely an ancient looking building & is fast going to decay. Upon its door is still the print of the tomahawk & scalping knife; & at a little distance there is erected a marble monument in memory of the defeat. Perhaps David will recollect the account in History. Passing through Deerfield & along its river I saw the noblest looking cornfields I ever saw as far as the eye could reach there was no fence but a continued field & the ears peeping up as if in search of the sun's fair rays. The road seemed no more than an Indian trail oh how unlike our "Granite hills"! But I perceive I cut short this lengthy detail -- let me say then we arrived in Springfield just as the setting sun was shedding his last rays upon the eastern hills. As we proceeded from this place I saw the cars come in which seemed more like beasts of prey than any thing I can imagine. I have been informed that I stopped in sight of uncle Georg's but not knowing where they lived kept on for Hartford where I arrived 9 P.M. Wednesday.

I met with the like reception that I expected, [they] had nearly done looking for me. Uncle David [went] to Springfield the week before expecting to find Father & myself there. I found Martha here with I imagine, more ribbons &c. on her form & head than she had ideas within.

But to make a long story short the school had only a week to keep when I came -- very different you see from our calculations. It is to commence again in four weeks. Last Tuesday (the closing day) I visited the school -- liked very much. During the vacation shall work enough to pay my way. I find the fashions very different from Lyme. My bonnet is no more in style than a last year's crow's nest. Aunt thinks I had better have a new one of silk. I have worn it once only since I came. She thinks also that I need an alapine dress to wear this winter for a handsome dress & I am of the same opinion. I need also a cloak. Cloths are cheap here & perhaps I should not have a better chance than to get one now. I wish you would write to me concerning them. If you cannot give Sarah your opinion & let her write soon as I shall expect to hear from you immediately.

I wish you would now be favorable. I yield not superiority to the city folks as yet in point of learning but I do in dress. All I ask is to appear decently dressed.

Give my love to all enquiring friends -- to William & Nancy -- tell them to kiss that name-sake many times for me & bring her up in the way she should go & not let her go scolding all the way. Tell them I shall write to them in four weeks precisely. Give much love also to Jeffers & Mary -- the children -- Thomas & Emily -- write to me about her health. Tell mother I lost no money, as she imagined, only what I saw go before my face. I miss the old hair lipped pitcher (as David calls it) with its contents & our good apples. Write to me all will be interesting to me. The singing all round. Tell Mary I am very sorry I could not see her before I came away. Excuse mistakes as I am aware that this is a heterogenous mass of ideas stirred up like a pudding with the bag string coiled up in it. With much love I remain as ever, Lucy F. Hall.

Hall Letters 5. Dec. 14, 1841; Lucy in Hartford to Sarah in Lyme.

Dear Sister,

Again do I improve a convenient opportunity in writing to one, the remembrance of whom, causes all the fond recollections of childhood days to glide in rapid succession through my mind; & in a moment the transactions of years are conceived to be present, accompanied by all the impressions which then attended them: I seem to see you with all our happy family seated around the old familiar hearth listening to some legend of the past, as read by one of our circle; or uniting our voices in joyful songs that caused the walls of our happy dwelling to respond with the echo of our merry voices; & when, perhaps, our songs were ended, to partake of the products of our fruitful orchard, which are now denied me. As these thoughts, & many others which I have not-now time to enumerate, pass my mind they cause mingled feelings of pleasure & regret: pleasure that I have a home of such enjoyments, & regret that absence prevents me for the present, from enjoying it. But though that privilege is now denied me, I look forward with pleasing anticipation to the time, should we live, when again I shall mingle in that society.

My health is good, now, with the exception of a severe cold, to which the climate of this place subjects any one more than that of my native hills: as the weather is for the most of the time mild, moist & rainy; which is the case today. I have experienced no cold weather, compared with what we have in N.H.

As music is your principal amusement, perhaps a few comments upon that subject as it has fallen under my observation may not prove uninteresting. --There are in Hartford 10 different churches. --I have attended 6 of them & found the singing excellent. --In one or two they use the Lyre & I have heard a number of tunes with which I am acquainted which sounded noble, being accompanied by the organ. --Some excellent singers they have too, who receive 2 or 3 hundred dollars a year for their services. I went the other evening to the universalist church to hear a temperance address from a gentleman from Boston & there saw Rev. Mr. Moore, their pastor, who formerly preached in Lebanon. His countenance looked very familiar as I saw him at A. Breck's funeral.

I have attended the lectures of the Young Mens' Institute a number of evenings, which are very interesting. --The speakers are some of the best that can be found in the country. --There is also a library connected with this Institute, the privileges of which one can enjoy by paying \$3.00 per year. --I would give considerable if our boys could have such an opportunity as this. --Our boarders among whom are Jesse Pushee & Alvah Davis (the latter of whom sends much love to Sarah) from Lyme & Orford, supply me with books from the library such as I choose--but owing to the abstruseness of my studies I have but little time to devote to reading--nor can I attend so many meetings & lectures as I wish; as there is one some where in the city almost every evening.

I suppose you would like to know what I have got new since I came here--I have only to tell you I have a dress & shawl-cape (bordered with fringe) instead of a cloak; the cloth is alapine. I was sewing the last hook on my dress when I rec'd your letter, therefore did not follow your directions.

It required  $8\frac{3}{8}$  yds. the cost of which was  $8/6$  per yard--an excellent price--color a dark green--should have had blue black had I not a merino one of the same hue. Have a dark silk bonnet with flowers on the outside & inner & all ready for wear at 4 dollars. --I purchased also a pair of India rubber shoes & gloves & a collar. This is all I have had new. --Concerning the Seminary. I wrote of it in my letter to William, which I presume you have read ere this, therefore I shall say little, except I like better than at first.

I received a paper from David in which was enclosed the proceedings of the exhibition at East Ville. I should liked to have enjoyed it extremely well. --I also rec'd your letter 9th inst. which produced emotions of both pleasure & pain. I was glad to hear of the health, prosperity & enjoyment of home friends & exceedingly sorry that the P.M. of Lyme has no more politeness than what you ascribed to him. I should have been more careful but you told me to write on my papers as you was one of the family & it would not cost you any more. I shall be more cautious in future about the manner in which I communicate my ideas & feelings. As to the contents written on the [papers] I [know] you mistrust the cause of my feelings as there implied--know that I did not arrive here in season to attend the fall term, therefore had no opportunity to teach this winter. I must then attend the seminary 22 weeks, or not go at all, as they take no scholar for half a term except for the last half.

These things connected with the thought that I was a burden upon the generosity of others (the particulars of which I shall not relate to you under present circumstances) caused me to give vent to my feelings which a little fore thought would have prevented.

Since that time I have had some conversation with uncle & he appears very anxious that I should attend the whole term which is to continue 17 weeks more, & practice music & c. He says I cannot tell what prospect there will be at present -- & wished me to write nothing that I was discontented, & to give our folks uneasiness about me. I am very sorry I did, but this close fistted disposition I abhor I will say that at least!

This you may be assured of I shall take a school as soon as an opportunity presents itself. One receives about double the wages here that they do at the north. The lady who teaches where I thought I should, receives \$3.00 per week & is boarded; & has only 25 scholars & those are almost all small. -- Their schools continue through the year with a vacation now & then. David thinks I am very home sick & says "stuff & duff it out"! So I say as long as there is a prospect of success. -- I should like to see my friends at Lyme, but I am not so homesick as he imagines. -- Things go on smoothly now & will I hope, so long as I remain where I now am if they do not I shall be homesick again as you think. I shall expect a letter from you now & then informing me of the changes that may take place in my native town; which is very interesting to me. When you write let us know of Grandsire, & grandmother's health as uncle & aunt ask me always what news from them. I hope that fortune will smile on me soon and relieve the anxiety of parents & friends. You expressed a desire to hear that I am a Christian. -- I wish that I could rejoice the hearts of all to inform them that it was the case, but it is not so. I cannot make myself one, nor do I wish to. -- For when I am one (if I shall ever be) I hope the change will be wrought by the hand of God & not of man. -- All I can do is to ask it of my Father in heaven. Give my love to all friends.

-- From your Sister Lucie F. Hall

I shall send papers often as a token of regard to home & friends but shall write but little on them. I shall communicate my thoughts in a different way. I shall include a piece in a parenthesis & then place a mark like this beneath each letter that I wish you to spell out & in this way work the postmaster.

-- Write often!

Hall Letters 6. June 5, 1843; Rhodolph in Lyme to D.C. in Hartford.

Dear Brother,

Me thinks you would like to learn a little something about the old sweet home, by this time, if you have been gone about long enough to begin to taste it so. I must let you know to begin with that we are all well.

Your letter informed us that you was also. You made an end of all coraspondence by saying nothing about ever writing again or wishing us to write, but all hands are in a hurry to have me or someone write. Father, S.S. L.F. & Myself have received a paper from you. Thomas and I went out to Williams yesterday in the sulkey, found them well. Wm. received a paper from you, marked 18 3/4 worth of your respects. Frances made Rufus the post master take off. I received a Hartford paper also of the same kind from S.M.F. Berlin. Blue wraping paper like the rest. On the inside I was S. Milton Field. L.P. 18 3/4 So I suppose Mr. Fields had 18 cts worth of your respects. I would be a little stingey of them if I were you. Y Yes. Thomas Jeffers have received papers also. Wm & Fields are all the only ones that have payed their letter postage. Wm. wished you to send some more, he & Frances & all hands now send you our dearest and best respects and it will not come hier than 18 3/4.

The band met training all wer present, nominted Jeffers leader for the day, payed out doors, Capt. Port taged closter than over Noah played Solos then, that was the only time we have met since you leaft. Baker Brier new Cider & Lambert are as comical as ever. Want I should write to you to set up the rest of the stoves and then come home, send their respects to you etc.

It is now teusday morn. We have got through springs work. If it does not rain all the time I go to Thetford to training today. Dea. John A. Gilbert's time is out here saturday for half month. He would like to write some in this to you, sends his respects. Father and I are piling a row of stone a crost the uper end of the flat. Y yes Ancel Gilbert raised a story & 1/2 house last week on north end of old one. William Smith raises his Barn this week. He begins to pay doctor's bill. His wife has a lame side, they say, & he has to ware a plaster on the small of his back. Nothing strange about that. Y yes Mrs. Hews is jest alive. Adolph Dimac left town for Boston or that way some time since. He was rather disapointed caus you said nothing about him. Lucy left town to her school week after you did, has not been home since. You said the organ went boo boo boo To be sure, I say it goes Zib zib zib etc. Y yes.

Write and send papers. Put your name on the out side of the wraper and it will be respect enough. They canot help themselves if you write the outside of the wraper all over so let us have some.



Father gives \$1. for the use of the old bridge river. I go him halves.

You had first rate luck in Boston to see all the folks. Francis Morey starts for Boston this week to attend the convention 17th. I hope you will not forget to get me a Clarionett, if you have a good chance. I will pay you well besides being ten times glad. I have writen about all I can think of so I must close. I have not played for any more digs since you left. We think of having one here 4th of July Y yes We have no papers to send you except the old Journal.

Be a good boy Y yes Yours respectfully  
R. Hall

Hall Letters 7. July 7, 1843; Lucy in Hanover to D.C. in Hartford.

My Dear Brother:

It is with much satisfaction, yea, and pleasure, too, that I improve this time, which is my own after the labors of the day are ended, in writing to one the remembrance of whom, brings back from the unreturning past many a fond recollection of early days, when we enjoyed each others society as we basked in the sunny haunts of child-hood. Alas! and do they return no more? Echo says, "no more"! But though those happy days are past & can be recalled no more except to remembrance yet do I love to think of them; and though they may return no more, still do I look forward with pleasing anticipation to the time, should we live, when we shall again mingle in each others society perhaps around the familiar fireside of home. But I will not dwell longer upon this subject fearing I shall excite in you a sympathetic feeling called "homesickness." By the way do you not know the meaning of that term by experience? Me thinks you have ere this; or you are "an exception to a general rule," as you know is sometimes the case. But what is the use! You must "keep a stiff upper lip," as I imagine you will, if you play upon the bugle as much as you mentioned in your letter. I was very much pleased to hear of your prosperity & promotion; & so were all of our family. It made father laugh out right. But mother says she is "afraid he will be sick"! You know she not unfrequently looks on the dark side of the picture of life. She is afraid you will go into the water, therefore beware! as "your ma'am knows best" Does she not?

For myself I am teaching as you are already aware in H. where I engaged for 5 months: 2 of which have already pass'd. I get along extremely well though the way I train the little urchins is a caution. It takes me to keep school & no mistake! I suppose if some were in my place they would think they had trouble, as I have tanned some half dozen Scamps two about 14 years old--Great loafers--they took all the little boys into the millpond about 12 rods from the school house; a swimming, I talked to them some & told them if they went in again I would take them out into the floor & give them a lacing. They did not appear much pleased at this & went in that very noontime, & then went home thinking that I should forget it I suppose. In a few days one came & I called him out & after talking to him sometime, which as he said afterwards, "it almost frightened his senses out of him." I sent after a stick & gave him a real dressing down & he has been as good as a puppy since. The other came Wednesday & I served him the same sauce. Today I have whipped 2 from 4 to 6 years old for talking saucy to people as they passed; which you know is very aggrevating. The way they have to go is strait--right ahead. I have got them under pretty good subjection & mean to keep them.

Sarah is teaching, where I taught last year--the people thought perhaps that "one of the name is as good as the same." She gets along well; better perhaps for my having been her predecessor--as the school was in good order. I am sometimes, almost decided to let this cap the climax to my common school teaching! I am really tired of the a,b,c's. I have about come to the conclusion to do something or nothing as you said about music; accordingly I am much obliged for the interest you take in my getting a chance in Miss H's school in Middletown. I should like the chance first rate, & consulted father & mother about writing to her. They said "don't be in a hurry" & father is going to enquire into it of her father. I think I shall write to her soon. She has in all probability engaged for the present, ere this. Was there anything said by uncles' folks, to her about

me? I presume not. If I only had an opportunity of display for a short time I should not be troubled for employment I am well aware. I shall have the offer of keeping the school this winter where I taught last winter I presume if I would accept as they were very much disappointed because I did not keep there this summer. When I was at home they came from Quinttown after me to go & keep as they had dismissed their teacher. I should like to have gone on Nancy's account. By the way, they are all smart & get along nicely. So are uncle John's family. Last friday in the afternoon I visited Sarah's school & at night we returned home with Rhodolph. I then received your letter & paper--the paper he gave me first & I did not know what to make of the writing, upon it; but after we got started he handed me the letter which explained all: & we had a feast, I had to read it twice. R. was so much elated that we could scarcely keep him in the wagon. He was very pleased at the idea of a clarionett & told me to tell you that he feared "you would forget it, having so many new things to attend to." He was engaged for the 4th to play at a junket over to Wheelers, & I suppose he went. He is on hand as much as ever gaping, about--"why, yes to be sure"!! You know how. They had a county conference at Lyme, 2 weeks ago & the sunday school scholars met & marched from the Hall to the meeting house. They wanted the band to play; but R. did not approve of it for reasons with which you are acquainted & would not play & so they had a brass band which you know must have been very musical. R. thought, it a great honor to them & so delivered up his instrument; you know they have got a hard one to drive--but he thinks they will urge him to take it again. I think they miss their leader for they have not done much since your departure.

Father gets along finely with his work; the farm looks well; R has made a fence round the yard & it is not so coarse. The grass comes up & it looks better. Jeffers has painted the blinds & they are of a beautiful color I tell you. I suppose they are hung before this. They will be an addition to the appearance of the establishment. Please call in your excursion & take a peep at them. We all want to see you very much but it does us a little good to look at your portrait. You see I have filled out this sheet & can write no more unless I splice it therefore refer you to the postscript.

Write often--if this is not worth 18 3/4 cents I will send another. R. wants you should send him some music on the wrappers & he will risk the postage & if he don't want any more that he will send you a paper. Is not this well filled--perhaps you will have to pay double. L.

Hall Letters 8. Sept. 5, 1843; John and Rhodolph in Lyme to D.C. in Hartford.

David My son tis with satisfaction that I improve this opportunity of writing to you to let you no that we are enjoying good health and hope these lines will find you enjoying the same great and good blessing as for news I have nothing particular to write it is a general time of health tho some are on beds of sickness. Major Gilbert has bin taken down with the palsy and his life has bin disposed of also Colonel Agel with the consumption Miss Chamberlin with the consumption to the deacons its thout she will not continue long. Brother Thomas has got badly hurt he let him self to Pliny for half a month to work in haying they went to the barn to fix in some braces he clim up the scaffold and sprung to the brace it gave he fell backward struck his hips upon a piece of timber and his head against Allan's thi lamed him some he has got so as to walk about the doctor said if it had struck across his back it would have killed him it struck the breth out of his body and Allan thout he was dead but he thinks he shall get about before long. I will give you some account of the cropps hay is in came in abundance we have something like sixty cart loadas of first rate of hay and Dolphus and I have got the whole without (losing?) one day's work. I thout when I began haying that I should not be able to do much I had the rheumatism in my hip and shoulder we went morning prity good and the day time I was quite comfortable but come nite I was in pane for about one week and then the pane left and I was never smarter in one hay season wheat is the best it has bin for a long time I think we shall have from seventy to one hundred bushels it is now about redy for harvest. Mr. Smith has (cut? reap? rep?) apart of his we have sode all over south to wheat and north of the barn and west whare the Long Johns grew and in the lane (anihed?) all looks well and promising we have harvested our barley have six loads grew whare the wheat grew last as far north as is the stone heep and to the pine stump very stout indeed Mr. Farrington planted the old house spot with corn and up towards the Bridge with potatoes to the (hills?) and is very stout we planted the flat with corn and potatoes worms eat the corn badly but has come on well of late oats over on the nole and on the brake up ground all looks very well we put the match to hard scrable piece Saturday the 5 of August had a first rate burn give our respects to Brother and Sister Culver tell them father and mother are well so I remain your farther and friend. John Hall

Sabath. That is date enoug,

Dear Brother

I have a short time to write. I canot think of half I wish to write and have not time to write half of that. I went yesterday to Orford and from thair to Fairley pond a fishing with brother JEFFERS. (Aaron & Milton.) ALVIN MEADER also. Got back about 1 hour ago. They have Jeffers & wife & I jest left here, Alvin has got to be quite a fellow. wide a wake ---- enough of this.

As for news I have but little and can think of none. Your letter with the money. The paper with Music we received O.K. I got the paper July 26. as I & Lucy wer going to Commencement.

Postage only 1-1/2 you wished to have me let you no if I had got it. I sent you a paper with a programme folded up in it & paid the postage have you got it. I have had an introduction to the B flat Bugle you left here, & find nothing very difficult about that music you sent to play on it, it goes better on the Bugle than on the Clair it being in that key. I concluded you sent the easiest first. I would like some more that is harder if you have it, if it is not so good scientific is wha I am after, send them along. As for the Band I have but little opinion of it. it has met twice only since you left, I played the first time you no. the second was for a Co. conferance I new nothing of the Bands playing until I herd the minester tell of it in the pulpit sabath before. no vote of the Band no meeting. I went and herd them play. Carryed the Clar. After hering old 27. played in stile street for Noah played stacato (musical example) it sickened me so that I gave up the Clar. You no the resolation when we played for Carol's temperance celebration that we play so no more. I did stick to it I did not break my promise. You said you was very sorry I am not a number of the Band I herd say they was sorry they played. I have the Clarionett now, As for your music I should like it myself, but as for the quicker the better it is all out of the question. I have mentioned it to some of them but shall not lift them mutch but etc. they say it is best to have some. When shall I expect to see the Clarionett etc. & YOU etc. I herd the black Band play which gave me incuragement, etc. not half I wish so must close send papers Good night excuse mistakes R.H.

Hall Letters 11. Sept. 24, 1843; D.C. in Hartford to Sarah in Lyme.

Respected Sister

I improve the present opportunity in writing to inform you of my health and prosperity which is FIRST RATE at present. As for news I have nothing in particular at present except LONG-YARNS. I was glad to hear from home and that you were getting along so well I think Father and Rhodolphus, get along better without me than with according to the account. I suppose they feel big enough with their 100 bushels of wheate You wanted I should write a good long journal of my affairs or a memorandum I will commence back where I wrote before. As for my every day business it goes on as before fitting up Castings of various description such as Hot-are Furnices Cookingranges Ovenmouths and the like. I have got so that I can do it off as well as the next man if I am not mistaken. And as for MUSIC it goes very well. On Monday 14th of Aug.. I with the Brass Band played for an excursion (or a Steem-boat ride as they would call it up in N. Hapshire) to New London about 70 or 80 miles from Hartford the way we went. We paid or had for paying \$1.50 besides passage and what we wanted to eat and drink. I enjoyed it first rate. The Steamer Glob a large and elegant boat about 230 feet long was loaded from one end to the other with 9 or 10 hundred persons. We started from Hartford at 7 o'clock and arrived at New London at one o'clock stoped 2 or 3 hours which gave us a chance to see the old city that was burned by the traitor Anold & Fort Griswold the Monument . And on our way back we had Songs Music and dancing amusemts of various description till we arrived at Hartford half past 10 o'clock in the evening. on the next monday an excursion to Sag-Harbor on Long Island the Steamer Kosciusko a large boat and the Band went and paid for the same that they had before. Here we see the big whale Ships 10 or 12 of them in and about the harbor a first raite pleasant ride. And on the next Monday we went to Norwich on the same business in the Globe by N. Landon up the River Thames 14 miles. Thursday 31st of Aug myself and four other members of the Band went to Warehouse-point in Winsor and paid for the Ladys there for the benefit of the Episcopal Church at Winsor for which we received \$4 apiece. The next monday the Band went to Sag-Harbor on an excursion in the Kosciusko at the same rate as before had good time. Next Monday Sept. 11th Went to Stonington on an excursion about 100 miles and back again in the Globe, saw the Battle ground of Stonington &c &c &c &c.

On Saturday 9th Sept.. I received from Capton Doolittle of New Haven a letter by a gentleman from there who came into the shop and inquired for Mr. Hall. He came up to me with a letter in his hand (I thought I was going to be taken though I did not for what.) he handed me the letter I told him that I guessed he was mistaken in the chap as I had no acquaintance in New Haven he wanted to no if I was a musician that played in Hartford Brass Band I told him that I was you must be the man said he. I took the letter and found that Capt. Doolittle wanted that I should come to New Haven and take the lead of the Band attached to his Company. as there Leader was sick he wanted I should come without fail and he would pay me any amount reasonable.

If Mother wants to know about my clothes they are in very good order good as could be expected two of my shirts are about done one pair of my stockings lets my big toes stick through. my toe pants do good service there no holes in them yet\_\_\_\_\_ Letter that Lucy you sent me I rec without extra postage. Aunt Mary wanted to know if you

wrote any thing abot a shall I told her what you wrote me to. Mr Emmans is not comeing back to Hartford She told me to write you that you michg pay Mrs. E for it. Excuse mistakes I shall conclude in another letter to Rhodolphus Yours Respectfully D.C.Hall

PS Not finding room enough in R's letter I am obliged to continue my longyarn in this Unkle D & Wife are well they have a hired girl paid girl to. They have from 25 to 30 hands in his employ. He melts from 3000 lbs to 3500 of iron per day. They have five or six borders & are expecting to have more soon. Oct 3d 1843 Since I began this I have played 4 evening for the Fare at Hartford & in the morning I am agoing to play as I have wrote before for the Reigiment of Cavelry &c. Mr. Hascal has come here to night I have been to Band meeting tomorrow evening have got to to play for a concert & the next evening also Write when you get this & let me no what is going on in Lyme what is Russell about I have not herd wheather he went to Boston. I received Rhodolphus letter the Saturday before yours by the Politeness of P.M.

Hall Letters 13. Dec. 12, 1843; Lucy in Hanover to D.C. in Hartford.

My Dear Brother.

I had verily thought that you had forgotten me (engaged as you have been in your excursions of pleasure, but on reading Rhodolphus letter, I find you have one sentence to me only which is "tell Lucy to write"! -- & accordingly comply with the request judging from experience that a few lines may be acceptable; although they may be imperfect.

I am teaching as you already know in Hanover -- at the Centre -- I enjoy Myself "first rate" -- have a good boarding place as can be had anywhere. I have quite a pleasant school, though I have some confounded rogues to deal with; but you know I am able and willing to straighten them if they need it. I have about 30 scholars and it requires all my time from 9 o'clock till nearly 5, to hear all their recitations: they being nearly all large students -- I receive for my services \$1.87 1/2 per week. You will think perhaps that it is a small compensation for me -- but remember it is only 1.00 less per month (or 26 days) then what you receive; and I am obliged to work only 6 hours per day. But I shall not brag; as I think we bothe work BY FAR TOO CHEAP!

I was at home to Thanksgiving -- it being the first time that I have been at home since I commenced my school, on the 30 of Nov. -- We should have had a glorious time if you had been there -- as it was we enjoyed ourselves as well as we could in your absence. William was not there being gone to Concord or Roxbury selling patent feather beds made from the trunk of a beach tree "Why yes"!! TO BE SURE !!! Johnny -- he has entered into that business all (alone?) you know. Mother has been a quite sick; but she has recovered so as to be able to be about the house -- she is not so well as she was before she was sick. They had an exhibition or rather an examination at the close of the school at Lyme, and it is said Rhodolph showed himself to a good advantage, both in the music line and the exercise of the school. He gave them now and then a spice of poetry which was first rate, it is said -- though I was not there to hear it -- He got the good will of all the students. Richardson said "he is an admirable young man"! -- that he ought to go through college -- says he could easily pay his way by his music. I think he has made good progress in his studies, and ought to pursue them still further. But he is on hand for Hartford -- I understand he has got father's consent, and will probably go in a few weeks. I tell you what bub, it is most too bad -- What shall we do for a beau when we want to ride out? I do not see but, you must come and supply his place! Will you not? Are you not intending to come home some time! I tell you your presence would be acceptable in the 1st degree. It does me some good to look at the portrait, but it is not the CRITTER after all!

I expected Sarah down here this week to assist me in my school a little -- she thinks of pursuing her studies and so hear some of my classes once in a while -- But I heard by Mr. Simmons family Sunday (by the way she was there thursday & friday visiting -- D. Simmons went up after her & they go it pretty strong without popping the question though I do not know but he may before now) that, R. is going to H & she will not come so soon -- but will by & by. You may think as Mary does that it is nonsense for her to attend school now as she has got to be so old -- but you know as well as I that if she is intending to teach she must qualify herself better than she is now. She could have had



the school in Simmon's district if she had dared to have engaged it. So for her benefit I offered to pay her board and let her go to my school if she chose, and she has accepted the proposal (by the way she can sew for her board and take the money to herself if she pleases -- it being 4 shillings per week)

She was disappointed in her school at the College, as the lady that taught there last summer concluded to remain -- but S. is determined to go to Hartford some day & so is coming with me. We should have first rate times. Will you not make us a call in your travels I can keep school equal to the fattest of them I do not care who they are. I may go to the College next -- it is rumored that I shall -- but I do not care if I do not -- I should like it well enough as S. & P. could then be together as they have 2 teachers in the summer season.

D. I want a lock of your hair for a bracelet: therefore please send some in a paper closely fixed as I board with the P.M. it will not be discovered I wish you would get your miniature taken Daguerotype & send it to me by Pushee or some other one. I will pay for it if you will -- it will not cost over \$2.00 at the most with a case -- there is a fellow at Lyme who takes them for that; & in the city I presume they can be done for 9 shillings -- they look perfectly natural -- I intend to have mine taken the first chance. This is the second letter I have completed tonight & do not wonder if it is filled with mistakes hay-stacks & hen's tracks; as I am very tired though not of writing to you -- the other letter is to A. Meader -- do you know the chap? I have had a letter from him -- he lives in Georgetown Mass. He was up last fall -- he saw my portrait, but not me -- he has continued to send papers at the original ever since. I received a letter a short time since from him -- be not worried I am not in love -- I suppose he however is a smart fellow engaged in the Shoe business -- He intends visiting Lyme in a few weeks. It is said he is quite an accomplished young man -- "Why yes!!!" if he is like his relation -- carries a gold watch in his pocket --but that is no more than I do & it keeps first rate time too. How goes yours -- do you keep it yet? I keep mine for the giver's sake -- Do write to me David. Direct to Hanover Centre -- The mail comes in only once in the week -- on Wednesday so calculate for it & write SOON VERY soon. I have written over this great sheet & now I am ashamed to send it - for on doubling it I see the lines are not gaged right -- Your affectionate sister, Lucy

Hall Letters 14. Feb. 16, 1844; Rhodolph in Lyme to D.C. in Hartford.

Dear Brother.

I improve the present opportunity in giving you a journal of my affairs free of postage. I have not much news to write except in the music line. As for the Band, it is about as ever. They have not met this 3 or 4 weeks on the account of my being absent. And when we did I had all the playing to do pretty much, as we there is no one to play the bugle. Noah has left his Ark, he is at work at Manchester. You would like to hear something about the dancing business. Bixby has 4 schools this winter. One at West Fairlee another at Williamstown another at Northfield the other at Orange. I have not played with him but once, that was new-years night at West Fairlee, for which they paid me \$2. I have engaged to play for him two nights when he closes his schools for \$8. he pays my expenses. he has engaged Old Mr. Whitcomb to play the Bass viol for the same he plays me. Young Mr. Whitcomb has 4 schools also. One at East Fairlee Vt. another at Wellsriver Vt. another at Littleton N.H. another at Bath N.H. Dayton does not play any to speak of this winter. Whitcomb heard me play 4th of July at Mr. Wheelers where I done my prettiest. It filled his ear pretty well. He spoke to me in the Fall that he wanted me to play with him this winter. The first time I went with him was to play for an extra at Littleton. He carried me and paid my expenses. We went with a span of horses, his Father went with us to play the Bass viol. We were gone three or four nights, had first rate time. Saw places that I never saw before & visited his schools, they paid us \$5. each at Littleton for the extra. The next time I went with him they talked of having an extra at Wellsriver.---

I have just received word from Whitcomb that they want me again at Wellsriver. But as I was telling the second time I went with him, we had to play for a Ball at the foot of the White Mts. about 18 miles east of Littleton. We were gone two weeks. I got \$10. and the next Friday I played for an extra at East Fairlee they gave me \$3. Our regular price is 1.\$ an hour. But we are not any more regular in it than you and I were last winter in our 50c an hour. But that is our calculating price. It is three or 4 weeks since we had a Cotillion party at E. Grants Lyme. Apolus Perkins & E. Grant were Managers, they had Messrs. Whitcomb & myself. I did not charge them but \$2. they had 6.\$ a piece. They talk of having another at Grants or at Woods stone house at Hanover in a few weeks. The Musicians Ball at Lebanon I attended. It was not so great a treat to me as I expected. Mr. Boid from Boston was there and played the Clat. he has been called as great as Kendall on Clat. Mr. King was there & the two Densmors. But I was not afraid of the whole pile of them. I was not called second to any of them. There were 200 Ladies and about 175 gentlemen at this Ball. We had them divided into 3. FLOORINS for 1/3 was as many as could dance at a time. No one went from Lyme except myself. I gave out cards but they were afraid of the bill which was only \$2.25 those that stayed to breakfast was only 3.\$ Managers had no bill. There were 8 couple of us went to Canaan with a 4 horse team night before last to an extra dance. Pushee has a school there and at the Colledge one at Lebanon another at Winsor bridge or that way some where. King and I spelt each other at Canaan, danced till after twelve we did not go to bed at all, we TRAINED like a book I tell you. Carol has a sing to night, and Whitcomb has a dancing school at Fairlee and wants I should come up and see whether I will ride with him to Wellsriver Tuesday or not. So I must postpone until another day---I went up to Whitcombs school last night. He wants I should play with him for the extra at Wellsriver next Tuesday

night. And Bixby has sent for me to play with him for an extra next Wednesday night at Northfield Vt. Says he wants me \$5. worth all in one night. Y.YES. So I shall have to go to Northfield by the way of Wellsriver with my own team. They had a bit of an extra 1st night at Whitcombs school & I hapened to get thare about 1/2 past 8 o clock by the way of singing school and had my ClarionETTS. They gave me 1.\$ for what I played, making 23.\$ that I have had for playing since the commensment of the year-- 44 I can pay you for the Clat. now and if I do not visit you this spring I wish you to get me a B flat of of the same pattern only a niser one. Black ebony with FIRST RATE silver keys if you can get one of that discription. I like this very well all but the mouth piece. The throat of it is not big enough to fill it or to get a lusty tone. I use the E flat mouthpiece all to gether, it works much beter. We are expecting you home in May. Mr. Benj. Convers is married to Miss Maranda Walker. Mr. Prenus Perkins to Miss Sarah Perkins. Mr. John Dimic buried his twin Son about 2 weeks ago, is about all the news I can think of.

We hear of 5 & 6 feet of snow north of us & at the white Mts. it is from 3 to 4 feet deep. We have had first rate sleighing here ever since the 13th of November. It is thought we must have 4 months of sleighing this winter. It is said to have been the coldest weather that ever was known for so long a time. I have suffered the most by Sleeping alone. I must close for want of room. Please correct my grammatial erors and bad spelling and writing etc. for I have written in haste and in darkness. I am the same ole meat.

Yours in hast from your friend & R.H.

Hall Letters 17. June 30, 1844; D.C. and Rhodolph in Hartford to Lucy in Orfordville.

Sister Lucy

I improve the present opportunity of writing though have not much news that may be interesting to you as I can think of, but R is very anxious to have me commence the business of writing and he will finish it. As for my health it is first best also R's. & the rest of the family. my business is the same as I have wrote before among the cast-iron I settled with unkle D- and took his note for seventy five dollars I had recd \$35.62 1/2 of my wages before I have engaged again for 5 months at \$20.00 per month have worked one month and five day I have lost some time in going to New York and in my musical performances and expect to spend a considerable more in course of the season, last year I was gon from the shop 4l 1/2 days in my music & haying. 12th inst the Band wen to Middletown and played for the Oddfellows society rec - \$3.00 each night before last R myself & our two Trombone players performed for a circus performance, there was a regular ROW before it was over with. it was so full that the gelery broke down and they all went down SMASH they acted like rowdys the rest of the evening and when they had stoped the performance they tore the tent down - we played abut 1/2 an hour and quit got \$1.00 each We had a bit of flare up in the Band about 2 weeks ago perhaps you would like to know how it was. The Band had been talking for some time abut advertising and before I knew any thing about what it was against to be it come out in the dayly times Hartford Brass Band Maj- Wm Hamilton Leader &c.

I thought if that was the case I would let him lead although he had not played with the Band but 3 or 4 times for 6 months. I brought them to terms very quick they aletered the advertisement and it does not tell who is leader for fear of making Old Hamilton mad &c. All orders addressed to Hamilton, Hall & Kalb will receive prompt attention &c &c. R. has sent Wm one of the papers that has it in you can see for yourselves. As to leading they wanted I should be leader when Hamilton was not there but this would not answer my purpose at all to be shuded out when another man pleased and they found it out so. And to stop further dificulties, they passed a vote that D.C. Hall should be leader of the Hartford Brass Band and that when the Band played a day the Leader should have \$5 when the other members had 4 \$ for half days \$3 to their 2 we are engaged the 4th and 1/2 of the 5th of July I must close in order to give R room to exhibit his penmanship if I could see you could tell the hole story in no time never mind I shall soon if nothing hapens

Yours Respectfully D.C. Hall

Dear Sister,

It is with great pleasure, That I improve these moments of leisure, In writing to you, a Sister, and a friend. Excuse me, for I am sorry; That I must write in a hurry, And leave you to guess the gender of my pen.

It is one I found on the Side walk opposite North Church a week ago today and were it not for its ENORMOUS SIZE I should call it FEMININE, on account of its pleasant, agreeable, & usefullness. It has a good Split and gives down well and has all the Female character. I SUPPOSE you have been lookin VERRY anxious for some time for a little of the productions of my PEN --BUT-- ETC.

I hope after my reasons I hope there will be some one of your number that will say that I deserve no blame or, that you had'nt aught to blame them, We have had Band meeting 3 evenings in a week and some times every eve; and the rest of the time to practice with the dancing master beside copping music. I should have writen last sabath But D. said he would write some if I would waite until today. And verry hard worke to get him at it, most as hard as it is for him to write. I said I would give you a discription of N.Y. when I wrote you that is out of the question. it is beyond discription. But the best likeness I can give you is a vast HOG-PEN. You think you have seen quite a plase, but Hartford is no more to the King City of N.Y. than Orford Vill is to this plase. You will want to know what we we went to New York for. Well we went to see the place. But when we got there the houses were so darn thick we couldn't see the city. So we went over to tother city of Brooklyn, Spun stree yarn to a great rate went all over the navy.

And next day went to city of New Jersey next day to Hoboken. By gosh we had soar feet come knight, I tell you. We went to the THEATER every knight we wer there except Sunday.(Dont tell HANNAH CHANDLER for God sake) Went to the Park, the Bowery, & the CHATHAM theater 2 knights. The Chatham Theater is whare C.S. Graffulla playes the flute. The man that composes and arranges music for our Band. The most celebrated of any in America. One that composes Solos for the Candall. We got some music for our Band here and one piece for our selves on the Clarionett & Bugle. D. says we CAN be top of the heep here in the Music line on the instruments which we play. But I say that little word CAN as a sign of the potential moode has no business there. For I have heard the best Clarionett player in Town or has been called so, besides those in the Theater at N.Y. whare they aught to have as good as any whare, AND I WONT GIVE UP TO ANY OF THE FATIST OF THEM.

You will think I suppose I Brag pretty smart, But it is just so like a Book. I played the washing day & Railroad Quick Step to D. when I first came here and he said, I'll be, d--- if I wont GIVE IT UP. D. & I played to the Ladies fair as we wrote in Mr. Jeffers letter whare we got acquainted with the dancing master. We filled his ear full, we have practiced with him Since, he has a school in N.Haven and one here. But the other Clt. player is as jealous as you please and would bite my back if he could, but he may kiss it, He is trying his pretiest to get in to play with dancing master, I dont know how he will make out nor I dont care.

We received Sarahs letter a week ago Thursday or Friday. We were expecting her was some disap--- We hope she has not given it up yet. We have an ole pady-poolett here

now but not engaged for any length of time. Sarah said the Sisters were oposed to her coming told her to stay at home. That is verry wrong; that is if Mother can possibly do without her. Do as you would like to be done by. Remember we are here and not much chance for her to be lonesome. If we have a little mending to do we have to do it our selves or ask madam which is worse a d--- sight. She said she was lame for want of money. TELL HER we will send her a V or a shin-past with a saw horse thus X on it if she will come.

I belong to 2 independent companies & play for 2 more, belong to the Band and play for Light guards and foot guards and belong to Culvers company of BLACK GUARDS. So I must black guard Sarah a little or her letter. The verbs we VERRY ACTIVE in EATING up the NOUNS, and the ARTICLES wer SUCKING the ADJECTIVES. I should think she had the DELIRIUM TRIANGLES; that is all, tell her never pick flaws in my composition again. I hope you will excuse mistakes and it as quick as possible. You maywread this to any one but dont let any one read this.

July 5th

I will now try and finish, it being the first opportunity since Sunday. Monday we were called upon to play for the Govs. Foot Guards for a drill in the evening. Tuesday eve, and Wednesday eve had rehearsals. Yesterday , to you a day of CELEBRATION, to us a day of OPPRESSION. I mean the Band. They had a celebration here. We played for the foot guards, had a verry hard time of it. A company of fireman and the N.Haven Foot Guards came up. We had to escort them from the cars through the city, & play at dinner, than all the after-noon, in the eve. March then to the fire works which were splendid had to play thare than escort the N.Haven Guards to the city hotell lthan ours to the city Hall. We were then dismissed untill 7 1/2 oclock this morning when we escorted out the N-H. company and called upon some of their old officers an peraded about the streets a while untill time for the carrs to go than escorted them to the depo. Saw them start. then played our company to the armary and were then dismissed, it being then about knoon. You would like to know what we had for playing. Just give us your fist; for what we played Monday eve and yesterday and this forenoon together with a present of \$5. for serenading a few friends of a Major; makes us up \$8. a piece; Bub has 12. This afternoon, we have engaged to play for a DIRAMMA 4 evenings for \$7. an eve, 9 of us. It is an astronomical exhibition at the city hall. comences next week sometime. The celebrated Norwegeon Violinist OLE BULL gave a GRAND concert the 14th of June at the city Hall Bub & I went. There was above 1000 persons. Tickets \$1.00 each, he has arived from Bosto an and is going to give another consort before he leaves.

I suppose you will judge from the absence of nonsense in my composition, that I am not verry well. If so you will judge correct. For chries Lemon aide Ice cream rasins and other luxuries too numerous to mention together with the exertion I had to put myself to has firly concord my constitution, and I am in a fit situation for a fit of sickness. But I shall stand NO sham for WHILE THE ROOT OF ALL EVIL; ROOTS IN MY POCKET. If I do not recover before Monday morn I shall breath the fresh air of the White-Mountain State before another Friday knight.

But I am in hopes to be better after I get rested. You see I am in want of paper I could another sheet closter than this had I time to write but it is 1/2 past 9 and I am unwell.

Give our respects to Unkle Reubin by telling him that his native ship Constitution lay in the harbor at New York while we were there, about 1/2 miles from the Batery. We paid 25c a piece to visit her. went all over her. She is in good trim with 400 men and 54 guns. She is a buster. What are Fathers comments on my learning the trade etc. I shall write to Brother T. as soon as the next Boat goes up, about stoves and stove plate, and about the Band etc. Shall send Father some fish, etc. We are expecting Sarah will come. We think we shall visit you next winter if Sarah comes at any rate. My best respects to all enquireing friends etc. to Frank & Henery and the rest of the unmarried Ladies of Quinto on in particular. Write as soon as you get this with out fail. Rhodolphus

Hall Letters 19. Oct. 22, 1844; D.C. in Boston to Sarah and Lucy in New York.

Dear Sisters

It is now about 8 o'clock and I am in comfortable quarters at Park Hall corner of Tremont St. at the south east corner of the common &c. According to our arrangements I hast to drop you a line. well, after I left you put on board an omnibus which crowded its way through Broadway to the Battery. I then on board the steamer Masseursets which landed use at Stoneington at 1/2 past 3 o'clock went on board the cars to Providence 1/2 past 6 from thence to Boston at 1/2 after 8 &c. Did not stop in Providence it was verry cold and looked dreary not so smiling as I thought Providence:

I have not seen any of the cousins nor any of the Lyme people yet. have seen Mr. Kendall he will do the fare thing with regard to music &c says my Brother was rather down in the mouth when he went off - was unwell &c appeared verry sorry to have him go so soon.

Have not much time to write and no news at all if I had. I probably shall be here a week or more. Write soon and I will again. As soon as I get in to practice I shall go and see if I can find any of the acquaintances you may think strange I don't go before but the sooner the better I get my music then I shall have leasure hours &c.

Will send my respects next time for I don't think that those that I left can be all used up yet.

Beg for me what I forgot to ic ask for Mrs. Son's Parsnips or Pardon. tel her that I like Mr. Goodluck in John Jones I was excited. write soon direct to the name of the hotel Park Hall, Boston Mass Respectfully yours in big hast excuse mistakes & bad writing If you please and oblige, David C. Hall



Hall Letters 20. Oct. 25, 1844. Lucy in Manchester to D.C. and Rhodolph in New Haven.

My Dear Brothers:

You may lend wings to your imagination, if you please, and detach the scales from your organs of vision and rest your most powerful "Quissing glasses" upon your nasal organs and with the rapidity of thought (or a Rail Road car as you choose) observe me in a beautiful situation on Lowell Street Manchester at Mr. Marshes. On every side the hum of industry greets my ear. The black smith's hammer - the saw of the Carpenter, the trowel of the mason & the jingling of bells & the whistle of the carman & from that in a regular grade to the crying of a child seem to commingle & give this little world the appearance of a vast Workshop where all are employed to advantage.

Perhaps you would be pleased to know why I am in this place - here is a chance to use your "Quissing glass" - Well, I have nothing to do but tell you. We, (that is S. & myself) arrived yesterday here in the Cars from Concord - bound for Boston we are on an express train. We started from home Wednesday, with the Millerites not to go up but down - Travelled all day by stage- over hill & dale, valley & woodland through every variety of riding sometimes coursing our way through cultivated fields (seldom however) & then again climbing the steep mountain side now winding along by a gentle stream or little lake & then poised upon a rocky eminence to descend with a Quick step that might be appropriately termed "The D I's Dream". What was the northern part of N.H. made for? It appears to me like many valuable articles in this world "to have been made in vain" Perhaps you will say it was made to hold the world together - But, me thinks cement would have been cheaper. I suppose however, that it was made for the production of wonderful and enormous animal plants like you & myself, to surprise the inhabitants of this little sphere by our miraculous performances.

We enjoyed ourselves first best on our route - we were attended by a full audience on our way in the form of "Angels & ministers of grace" and some of the Satan's own faithful servants. Mr. Bond & family came with us & intend settling in Nashua. We arrived in Concord about 8 o'clock in the evening remained at Goss' house during the night - waited until the second train of cars in the morning - visited the State prison & State house & looked about considerable & then took the cars & with the rapidity of locomotion in the superlative degree came to this place where we intend tarrying a short time & then away we fly on the wings of steam to Boston. We want to see you very much & have thought of it strongly but the root of all evil that makes that big horse go with iron nostrils & inhaling fire & exhaling steam does not take root in my pocket. We shall remain in Boston probably about 2 weeks or in that vicinity. I said we meaning I for I suppose S. is intending remaining there until brothers come home. But this child must return home to commence school in the far famed city of Quinttown sion r y ry for \$3.00 per week. I was at Nancy's one week this day at an apple paring - where were collected some of the "unmarried ladies" Henry is in first rate order - sends much love to you. His lady is in this place & I intend calling on her on the morrow. There are several of Lyme people in this place - this day we called on Mrs. Claflin the blind man's wife & w there Mrs. C. sends for Rhoda Gilbery who enquired for R /y like very much here - thinks I should live here to my liking. William talks of coming here in the spring. By the way N. is in better health then she was in the summer. Our people are all in good health.

Cupids darts are flying at random methinks in L. this Autumn - Dex Jenks is published - to what you will say, why to a "Fox" to be sure - Miss Betsy - why yes "foxes have holes & the birds of the air have nests" but I do not believe they "have where to lay their heads" Some more - Sim Whipple is published to Lucy Rugg of Orford our school teacher this summer - Bill Otis to Achsah Wood of Hanover - H. Newellway married on Wednesday. I shan't tell you anymore now fearing it will affect you too much. I think you are doing a snug little business - that is right - go it but mind & keep your nose tied up at the heel. Our folks are pleased about it - mother says she is afraid it will make you unsteady - therefore be good & do good. I suppose caution is needless. We should be happy in the extreme to have you meet us at B. next week - write at any rate directed to me - care of J. Hastings Roxbury as I should get it sooner. I have got me a first best watch - worth \$16.00 - costing me \$12.00 - sold my old one towards it for \$3.00. I purchased it before I recieved your letter - am much obliged for your good will - mine is a new one double silver cased about the size of my old one I intended to have a gold one but missed of it,. Mrs. Marsh & cousin Lavinia Culver send their respects to you they seem to have everything to their liking. Now remember and write soon! very soon!! I should have written before but have no time that I could possibly devote to letter writing. Please write when you are to return home. S. & I. send much love to you - I am the same Lucy as ever.

You will find our honorable bodies or information of us at Mrs. Fuller's - No. 14 Derne St. Remeber 14 Derne St.

Mrs. Fuller wants you to make arrangements so as to stop sometime with her. She thinks Mr. Washburn will have an extra for your benefit. L.

**Letters 21-41 (December 31, 1844 to May 30, 1846)**

Hall Letters 21. Dec. 31, 1844; Rhodolph in Lebanon, N.H. to D.C. in Lyme.

Brother D.

I suppose you would like to hear of my success with Mr. Pushee. Well after Father left I made myself as much at home as possible until Friday, went to Woodstock. Mr Pushe was out visiting did not see him until supper. Mr. King came in I knew him he gave me an introdux to Mr. Boid the Clt. player from Boston the day before. I felt jest as though I had as live be in wentworth as thare with my gold keyed B Clt. I told Pushee I did not feel like playing before those old crickets. But all I got from him was O God dam you ant afraid them I hop. I guess I give them Hell in the ear but I dont know. I got \$8'00 for it any how. When I saw Mr. Pushee he had got these dam cards printed. Left off your name and John Bixbys. He said he never thought of Bixby & said he understood you that you were not going to stop only about a fortnight, and supposed you were in New-Haven before this. He appeared verry sorry. Wants you to come without fail says it wont make any differance. A part of the cards sent to Rodgers are for you one fourth of them certain. but if you dont get them you can have enough here. I want you or some one to come after me next Friday after noon. I think I shall have a dirty shirt by that time.

And then I can you a history of 3 more jobs. be sure and come some of you next Friday towards sun sett. I shall have to come from Bethell Vt.

Hall Letters 22. Apr. 5, 1845; David Hall in New Haven, to Lucy Hall in Roxbury.

Dear Sister Lucy,

After leaving Roxbury and Boston I soon found myself in Worcester whare I left Miss Mann with one of hir friends which she found at the Depot. a Miss Welds and went home with hir in the Stage. and I went and found Sidney Pushee he conducted to Edwin Culver & Lafayett. also Spoldn Flint, Benj Piper & Nore Lawry Converse. the next morning started for Hartford at 3 oclock landed at 106 State St. D.Culver found them all well Lydia had mad hir mind up to stay where she was and not go to Boston. The next day arrived here & c & c.

The Blues Band as they thought had gon to the D'vl for they had not been together since Lum's sent me that letter but joined the opposition Band or at least played with them. the Capt. had got a letter written to send for to have me and Dolf. come without fail he had it in his hand when I first saw him. (How is it will Father let R off I have not written for him yet) The band have all joined me and things go on smooth now and in first rate shape. I have got a room in the Saint John's Building opposite the Post Office on the same flore that Mr. Smith has his dancing school and is connected with it I have the room of Mr. Smith and play for his school occasionly for the use of it which is very handy change you know.

Now with regard to a school Lucy I have looked about considerable and made enquiryes and I think that you can stand as good a chance as any of the school teachers and a little better, The way a great many of them do is to hire a room set up a private school they generally have from 20 to 40 scholars and \$2.00 to 2.50 a pease or scholar.

I have seen Mr. Prelate Dimick and talked with him on the subject he thought if you were here you might do a good business and that he might help you considerable as there are many that come to him in the coarse of the year and enquire to know where there is a good private school. Now he is a first rate fellow and on hand for sunday no mistake (there is not much superstition wraped up in him) though a good moral man and one of the most popular teachers in New Haven.

He said also that if there was any vacancy in the public schools that he should be as likely to know it as soon as anyone and thought he might get you in whare you might get \$200.00 or 200.50 and perhaps more a year,. Mr. Dimick has \$600.00 per year for his service in teaching the Whiting St. School.

I have not much news to write that would interest you. Write immediately and let me know when you will be here the day and the hour drop a line into

the express at Hartford you will want to stop there day or two and see the folks.

If you are engaged where you are and a prospect of doing well I should not advise you to leave but I think there is no danger but that you can do well here after you get established once. The time that schools are commenced is about the first of May. You will need to be here as soon as the 15th or 20th of Apr. and sooner if you like,. How is Sarah she is full of sing of course if you have good luck in a school I should think she might try it if she would like that kind of business she is qualified as well as a great part of them are according Mr. Dimick account of the connecticut teacher better a considerable I think.

Opposite the Post Office on the west side 2nd door fronting the P. Office up two pare of stares the right hand door at head of the stares is my room and station for a spell at least. but if you let me know when you come I will be at the Depot. Post Office is on Chapel St. if any thing should hapen that I could not be at the Depot you can hear of me in Mr. Lums store 83 1/2 Chapel St.

Give my respects to all inquiring friends Mr. Hastings in particular & wife. Mr. Dimick wished me give his respects in my letter to all friends of his in the north &c. excuse mistakes

Yours in hast with respect D.C. Hall

Since I wrote this letter and sealed it I have seen Mr. Dimick he seems more favorable still with regard to your coming here says there is going to be a new school house put up this season where they will have two teachers. He expects to be one of them It will be completed by fall you can keep a private till then do not fail to write & let know when you are coming I shall expect you soon be on hand.

Hall Letters 25. Aug. 30, 1845; Rhodolph Hall in Boston to D. C. in New Haven.

Brother D.

Kind Sir, it is with a great degree of pleasure that I answer your request. you would like to know where I am, how, when, I got here and how I am. Well, to give you a korect account I will now undertake, I will commence at the beginning to avoid all mistake. When I left you, my hide was badley broke out you know, and as the burths were all taken, Mr C. and Myself did not get much sleep tuesday knight. got into New York about 5 o clock, took the Long I. carrs at 8 for Boston. Arived 7 1/2 o clock. My fare from N.Haven here was only 3.\$ including lugage. I put up at No. 9 Elm St. In the eve. went to the American Hotell whare saw in the day paper that the New-York company had arrived in the noon train, and that they had a colation at Concert Hall & that Kendalls Band was employed to escort &c. I went then to Concert Hall, found Ned K. under, in an Oyster Saloon with 3 or four of ther of the Band. He was verry glad to see me. Says wy, Hall how are ye, I am glad to see you. You have come to stop hvent you. I told him I thought of stoping a while, if I could be of any use to him. Said he was glad of it. Says whare is your Brother is'nt he coming. when is he coming &c. &c. they all appeared verry glad to see me. Ned. wanted me to come out with them wednesday to play for the lancers to fill the place of the German that played the E b Ophiclide but he had caried off the uniform. so they could not get it in season, as they came out at 6 o clock and went off to cambridge. But I did not care about comeing out with theme so soon. on horse back to as I was troubled with that humor and was verry tired. it was 12 o clock at knight they got through And wednesday it rained most of the time as hard as it could pour down. So it was lucky that they could not get the uniform. I went to Roxbury Wednesday afternoon found the folks well Saw a verry pretty Bird of fine feathers ( perhaps a little down, under em some whare.) But she cant shine nor sing much I dont believe. I discharged the respects the girls charged me with and says she; thonk yoo, Said shee should like to see Saree and Lucee veree muchee. Mr. Hastings & Wife send their best respects. Say they should like to have the Girls come to Roxbury to live, they are moving into their new house. Frank Morey is driving Expres wagon from Boston to Roxbury. he and I went to Doddsworth concert wednesday eve. assisted by Kendalls Boston Brass Band. they had a ful house. Ned Kendall & Wright were verry anxous that I should play with them at the concert. But the Dam jerman had got all the parts. I will send the program in a newspaper soon. Thursday two of the Band went to Charlestown with me & found the uniform. he would not lend it, nor sell it less than 30 \$ in cash on the spot he was mad, thought the Band had not used him well. So I could do no better than to buy it, as we were engaged to play for the New-England Guards that after noon, it just fits me to a shaving.

We had to exhort the New York company round town a spell than to the Depo, afterwards we went on the Comon whare I had a chance to see some drilling that would astonish Hartford L.G.s or the N.Haven Greys. We met at the Fannell Hall came out about 2 o'clock Wright Borrowed an E b ophiclide for me, but I had not seen it or a single note of their music. You can better imagine my feelings a Dam sight than I can discribe them. But I thought perhaps as the German or my predesesor did. better to carry an instrument and make believes in a band like this than to be Bill write and leader in a band like New Haven, City. Brass, Independent City Brass Band. When we came out says Jim K. here Hall you come besid me. betwene me & Sibley, says he. Now Hall, Blow it out, says he dont be afraid. blow it out. Says I. What the Devil shall I play I have no notes and I not acquainted with your music. Well dam it, ses he, play what your a mind to. Vamp ses he. The Kendalls and all hands appear verry friendly toward me so far. When I first saw Jim he says well how do you do Hall your Brother did not come with you did he. He enquired all about you when you could come &c. Said he wished you were here. our bass trombone player is a German plays in the theater could not come out with us thursday, had to go & reherse with them. Jim, said, dam these forenors you cant depend upon them. he'd be damed if he'd have one them in the Band any longer than he could get some one to fill their place. the one that plays the trumpet is a german. Mr Wright is verry axous you should come and play the 1st B b Bugle & he would play the trunmpet. he says he has to much responsibility thinks he has the hardest part in the Band. Says you can fill his place and more too. they all appear to put great confidence in us. & I think Boston is the place for us. We can be as much as 2d best any rate. and that is as much as we could expect at present.

I think we can get worke here as well as in N-Haven. if we want it. I went to Mr Fordes on friday. he and his wife & Rosses wife and family & Sarah Hews got into Boston Wednesday I have seen Ross & Gardner. Gardners Wife & Brother T.s wife got here tuesday She is at Burisons. they live at East Boston. Mrs. Flavilla Tyler comes down with Fords folks to. She is at Washburns. I visited thare friday eve. Saw smith & wife from Phelidelphia, and all the rest, or a number of Unkle Ts girls. they are all well. Send their respects & Emily or Brother Ts wife pretty smart, although she looks verry slim She said she left the folks at Lyme verry smart. all but sister N. She has been sick to Fathers about 3 months. and has only got able to walk She said Mother kneeds some one verry much. to help her. And if I were to express my opinion I should think it a dam shame for my mother hardly able to drag herself about to be left alone in such shape Grants folks have gone back to Lyme to live. George is here in the City. I think I shall go home to thanksgiving. I stop at No. 2 Hanover Court leading out of Hanover St. I pay only 2 1/2 \$ per week for board I intend to get work at lock making. So I dont know how long I shall board here. We have a rehersal of the Band tomorow at 1/2 past 2 o'clock at the pantheon Hall. they want you to send them that Boheman Quick Step. Jim Kendall said they were short of Music. By the way I played some of those Hornpipes along side of him: made them stare. I recon. Emily said that Father was writing to us last Sunday I suppose you have got the letter before now. I should like to know what he wrote. please send it, or write, Tell Capt. Doolittle with my respects that I think I will be neerer the head of the Lion than the tail. I think that you and the girls had better as soon as convenient. start for home by the way of New-York & Boston in a few weeks say as soon as you can settle up affairs. And by that time I can tell whether it will be best for me to spend the winter in Boston or with Mr. Pushee. the Money due me in Hartford will be verry handy change when I get it, as I have had to buy a uniform

## Hall Letters

and want to get a new instrument, you know. I must finish or Dacapo one of the 6' I shall expect to see you in a few weeks. but I want to hear from you often. please let me know when muster comes off. write when you get this and I will write again. My best respects to all. (Mrs. Stone or rather Miss stone in particular)

Rhodolphus

P.S. Do not forget to send that Quick Step. Wither by Express or Mail. We want it rite off. Excuses mistakes In haste R.Hall



Hall Letters 26. Sept. 2, 1845; Rhodolph in Boston to D.C. in New Haven.

Dear Brother,

You will not be a little surprised at breaking a 2nd letter so soon from me. I am verry sorry to be under the necessity of thus surprising you but I feel it my duty to inform you what I in haste forgot to when I wrote before, and what I have learnt since. To begin with, I have not been well since I left New-Haven. My breaking out was nearly all out of sight, last Friday. Which leaves me faint and sick, not so but what I am about, though.

But were prospects ever so shining, unless I felt better than I now do, I should not stop here a great while. This may appear strange to you. My object in writing so soon is that if you have not made any diferent arangment with the Blues of Capt. Doolittle yet, dont you. For Wright after I told him what a chance you had, and how much they payed you he seemed surprised at your thinking of leaving. Said it was better than you can do here.

He and the Kendalls both would like to have us it would be better a dam sight for them, because it is for their interest to have a good band. But Wright himself said he should not advise you to come here and leave that situation thinking to do better. Jim K. asked me yesterday if you were comeing positively and how soon. I told him you thought of comeing in about 6 weeks, as soon as your time was out. He said it would not pay you for comeing then. Business would be all over. I told him your chance, & c. what they were to pay you. He said it was verry good, said he din not know you had such a chance. Now to make a long and short of it. I mean to sum up all I have heard said, and seen. I shall take back what I said before it (Boston) is not the place for us. In other words New Haven is a dam sight better one for us at present. Were it not for talk I would see you tomorow. Believe me it's here with the two K.s as in Hartford with Hamilton & Chapen. And were we here they would be as jealous of us as they were. For I believe we could give them a reason to, they do all the playing there is to do. And no one else can get a job, except some time when they canot play at two places at the same time. I have been advised by Wright or the same thing, he said he should think I should write to you not to loose your chance., Said he did not want to incourge you to come here and than have you disappointed. And one or two more of the Band said they should advise me as a friend not to have you leave your sittiation but did not want it to get to the Ks and two or 3 others. Said it was for their interest for to get us . It would help them. The truth of it is we can come in any time I think. If you should come you would have to pay 30\$ at the least for a second hand uniform and if you got a new one 40 or 45\$. And a B b Bugle such as you would want. Silver keys not less than 60\$ this is only the begining. I have not bought an ophiclide yet. I think I shall not until I hear from you. I think I can sell my uniform to the Mr. Burditt who has proposed to join the band. He as been to look at it twice. It just fits him the excuse is I make is too snug for me. If I sell it which I think will be without any trouble. (pretending to want to get a biger one.) I shall go to Lyme with Brother Ts. wife when she goes in about 3 weeks unless I hear from you. Wright says there will not be any thing for the brass band to do this winter he thinks & as for the cotillion Bands they all made up by this time. So he should not like warnt you much business this winter. If Whitcomb finds he cant have me Dayton will be the favored one of corse to play with him. And I think if

you go home you will have as much more playing than what you expect now as you had last winter. With Rodgers and Pushee & I & the rest of covies. I will do all I can for you a jobs with Pushee. I think you better ingage another year or 9 months of the year to the Blues if you can. I will help you out. I must close. I shall not stop here but a short time recollect. I left my drawers and cap. I wish you to take care of them. I shall expect to hear from you as soon as you can write after you get this. Direct to Roxbury. I shall be more likley to get it. Tell the folks I am home sick if you want to all though I am not. If I were I have enough to make me so or a good reason for it. Now dont for God sake put off as you always do but write immediatly and let me know what you have been doing and what alterations you have made. I was not well when I wrote before but thought I should be better soon. nor am I well now. We have no job this week. Do not fail to write Direct to Roxbury, Best respects of Your Brother, R. Hall.

Hall Letters 27. Sept. 5, 1845; D.C., Sarah, & Lucy in New Haven to Rhodolph in Boston.

Dear Brother,

It appears from your letter that came to hand yesterday that your mind is rather changable and that you are sick. & I verry sorry for that. think it is home sickness in part HAY! dont go to being scart so soon, on my part at any rate. I have not made any preparation for going to Boston yet, any more then when you left, have not seen Capt. Doolittle since to speak to him. I do not work in the factory now Mahery was mad because I did not work stedly & got another man in my place. I think of visating Boston this fall and take lessons of Ned K if nothing more, D.C. Hall

Dear brother, a word to you in haste - I am the same as usual teaching the ideas - I am sorry to hear that you are unwell - but do not be in haste & I may go home with you - S. has had an application at the North church to sing & will commence next sunday on pay for the time that she sings - & if she engages to stay I shall probably go home if I can do no better. So hold on till it is settled - in haste

away to school only 15 min. Lucy.

P.S. Mr. Answorth has arived in town the flute player and will join our band J.M. Hubbard also has taken the Post-Horn-and his brother the orphiclide Wilcox has payed for the orphiclide so have the blues for training I have not got any thing from Hartford yet nor for playing on the green, by the way we have done playing on the green a week ago to night was the last timne we made it go first rate smarte. I redd a letter directed Messrs. Halls from J.A. Smith he is in Springfield Mass he wanted us to come and play with him his Sons & Escortt this fall and winter and also to play for a party Sept. 5th which is to night I expect a letter today I wrote him an answer and told him where you were and I would go myself muster is the 17th if you have no engagement I should like to have you come here and play with us and so would all of the band first rate. Stark came to rehearse last night on Lum's invitation he is fishing mister job but it is no go unless he joins us again I will send this Bohemian girl quickstep soon where shall I direct write soon and let me know. yours in hast DC, Hall

Dear brother,

I am very sorry you have no more to encourage you in B. with the Kendal you had better have stayed in New H. I feared it would result in this manner. But never mind take care of your health. L. wrote my prospects in the north church I think they are better than they were at the center. the Organist came here last monday eve. said he would like to see Miss Hall that sung he had mad a great inquiry I suppose he thought they would be pleased with my singing if I ever pleased say nothing about my singing the center in B. let people think it is the same plus give our love to Mr. & Mrs. M & Burrison's wife brother Y wife. Mrs. San sends her respects. Sarah

Hall Letters 31. Nov. 6, 1845; Lucy in New Haven to Sarah in New York.

Dear Sis,

I am once more in the "city of Elms," where we have spent so many happy hours & vice versa. But how changed the scene! Where but a few days since the verdant "Elms" spread their beautiful foliage we behold naught but their unclad branches bared to the northern blast & the dried & leaves rustle in those once beautiful walks beneath my tread. Ah! a sigh for fallen beauty! But the scene is too melancholly for me & I leave it for passing events which will interest you more. As you are already aware I left New York yester morn in the noted steamer "Champ" (having been entrusted to care of Capt. Stone to whom for attention & polite treatment I am much indebted as also to Doct. Tweedy) And after a prosperous though rough voyage we again arrived on the shores of old Conn. Nor did I feel the least sickness as I expected from its giddy rocking. I arrived at our past home found Mrs. D. alone & first rate glad to see me as manifested by the cordial shaking of hands. I went to the P.O. & there found 2 papers for yourself from "L.C.' Lyme & "GMF." Berlin, and a paper & letter for David. The letter I enclose to you thinking that the original will do you more good than if given in the 3rd person. And now for present affairs & future prospects. I arrived just in season for good luck. Mr Lines called here tonight & informed me that I am one of the teachers chosen to fill the vacancies & gave me my choice in schools-- The Whiting St. or York St. I did not tell him which I should prefer--Am to let him know on Sat. when I am to pass the "fiery ordeal" of examination. Think I shall take the new one for several reasons viz. I can have more wages hereafter--an assistant perhaps in the spring & lastly to accommodate Mr. D. who has been so kind in helping me to the situation. He (Mr.L.) said nothing about my price, but he said to Mr. D. That it should not be less than \$2.00 & would give as much more as they could afford--but it is not to commence until Dec.--in 5 weeks from next Monday. Mr. D. began his school last Mon. of 6 weeks duration at Whiting St. He will then go with me to the new school house & commence operation. Until that time he wishes me to assist him so I am on good footing you see better than I expected. As to Adelee I can say nothing about what can be done at present. I am to board here for 6 weeks at least & whether longer is doubtful, though they are very anxious that I should board with them through the winter. You will perceive by that letter that our folks are in need of someone-- it makes me as homesick as the d'l. Where N. lives it will take some beside me to find out unless it is in Hew's house. I fear N. is past cure & if I could I would willingly share with her but it cannot be. I must take care of one.

I have not heard from D. yet--write soon. I do not pay the postage as it will go more direct. Mr. D. did not get my letter until last night. I think that respects are too cool for my New York friends therefore convey my sincere love & regard to Mr. & Mrs. C. Adelee, Mrs. S., Mr. T. & the children. Tell Adelee I will give her a yarn & Mr. T. a string of poetry -- in haste, Lucy

Hall Letters 32. Dec. 3, 1845; Rent receipt from D.C. in New Haven.

New Haven December 3d 1845 Rec'd from Mr. D. C. Hall thirty Dollars in full for rent of the north west room in the third story of Els. Johns Building in Chapel Street until May 1st 1846.

P. B. Foster

Hall Letters 32.1. Dec. 19th, 1845; E.G. Wright in Boston to D.C. in New Haven.

Friend Hall Dear Sir,

Your letter was dully received and I was glad to here from you and besides I was glad to receive an order for the bugle for I take pleasure in making bugles for persons that I know can apreciate the value a good instrument and can play on one when he gets one And I know you can do all this and for that reason I shall try my best to pleas you

N B I am now at work on one that is silver boddy and gold keys and trimings Mouthpiece and all and it will take over week or more longer to finish that and then yours shall come next and you will get it sometime in January perhaps by the middle but I cannot tell sertain but when I get the boddy done I will write and let you know when it will be finished I have got the silver for the boddy now the same that the gold one is made of.

Yours in F L & T, E. G. Wright

Hall Letters 33. Jan. 3, 1846; Rhodolph Hall in Lyme to Messrs. Hall & Rodgers in New Haven.

Dear Sirs,

Your Company are verry strongly solicited at our Ball by Mr Pushee Perkins and Myself and many others too numerous to mention. Pushee says TELL THEM TO MAKE AN ERAND HOME on a visit. He wants you to come verry much. I have not time to write or I should have writen before. I have hardly found time enough to DAM you for what you deserve, for not writing as you agreed. Not knowing but Hartford boys would want me has prevented me from buying Kendalls C alt. & Ophiclide. I send you & friend Rogers some cards as I wish you & your QUA. BAND would just astonish we natives. Business is first rate I have cleared more than \$75.00 all ready.

Last week Pushee payed me \$25. for 3 Balls. The two weeks before of 2 Balls each \$30.00 or \$5.00 each week. We have 3 Balls THIS week for which Pushee promises me another \$25.00 STRIKE. LET ME SEE YOU BEAT IT. Drivers Ball comes off at Haverhill N.H. We have the job the 20th I believe it is. These ten cards I suppose you will go shares in. the printer made a mistake in not puting you both on together. We gave him the draft both from New Haven. Respects to all, in hast, R. Hall

Hall Letters 34. Jan. 10, 1846; Rhodolph in Lyme to Sarah in New York.

Sister S.

I suppose you are enjoying yourself in a way not to be beaten. I judge from your dam long yarns. Well if I had time, space, patience, and I might add talents. (for YOU NEVER WANT for MISTAKES in your letters of my writing) I could, without doubt, weary your patience, as you have mine.

After playing 3 or 4 knights for Balls and get verry tired and seeply, come home and have such a CURSED MEESS, (for I cursed it) as you write to Father, to read is enough to discourage any one from writing for fear of geting an answer of the same quality. I have had nothing writen to me but, "Why dont R write" or "tell R. to write" knowing that my writing has always been a mark for you to shoot at, or the mistakes in it to sneer at, perhaps has been too great a reason of my neglect of the same. but I do not sett myself up as a scholar or letter-writer. I am imployed most of the time with Mr Pushee. I have received \$81.00 for what I have played for Balls the last 4 weeks and only 10 nights, for the last six Balls this week and last was \$51. of it. I have recd. upwards of \$100. for playing this winter. 6 or 8 more engagements ahead. Mr. Pushee has 4 schools this winter, one of them are at the most aristocratic place in the world that is Lyme N.H. you know whare that is.

Mother wants me to tell you that AUNT Clarisa and AUNT Lucy ar expected over everyday (if they are not at grandsirs' now) they wrote they should come the first of Jan. hit or mis. Mother thought you would like to see them & the rest of the folks enough to come home on a visit.

Father and Mothe are pretty smart, for them. But sister N. I am afraid never will be better. I should not be surprised if she did not live six months. She is verry poor. She says. "What shall I do for a girl." LID TYLER is only fit for a house of PROSTITUTION, to depend upon Cuntry trade.

My best respects to Maj. Cunningham and Lady, and to MRS. SON MY BEST RESPECTS (and as much more as may be acceptable) It is now betwene 1 and 2 o clock Sabath morn and if I go to Church today it will more to cary this letter than to hear the gospile I saw Mrs. Dicky a few weeks since she enquired verry particularly for you She expressed herself in a polite way, that she thought you were dam mean for leaving your poor ole mother as you had so long & she and I did not disagrrea at all there, and she is not the only one that has expressed thier opinion thus.

Tell Mrs. Cunningham that I have had 3 new pair of pants Since I saw her, the last pair are the only one that will fit her I know, they are very large around. I think she wears rather large patern that way. Tell Mrs. Son that when I see her I shall expect to pay her the forfeit of wearing my cap. I hope she will forgive me for not thinking of it at the time. She will think I am not verry affectionate I guess. I think I shall have to pay her some interest on the debt if she exacts it. PLEASE WRITE It is almost 3 o clock and the room is cold and I am done.

Yours respectfully and in haste, Rhodolph

1 card for Mr. C. one for Mrs. Son, the others for who you please AMEN



Hall Letters 35. Jan. 25, 1846; Rhodolph in Lyme to D.C. in New Haven.

Brother D.

I have been looking for a letter from you for a number of days, as you said in your last, that you would write when you got to Hartford, which was to be the next week. I was verry much disappointed to hear of Rogers diserting you as he did. It will not be much for his credit I think. I heard from the jent. last thursday at Haverhill at the Drivers Ball. By the way I played thare. Had a great time, about 100 couple. 6 Musicians, Pushee Myself Post PROFF. Bond of Lowell and a chap that came with him. I no recolect his name played trombacello, & Dayton. I played the flutes part of the time & the Clt. part of the time, as Dayton could not play all of Pushee's Music nor could Bond or he would not, try to play some of it. You know some in E and rather tuf. Bond played the Clt. some but the Post Horn & trombone mostly he is more talk than cider I think, a dam sight. My bill was \$10.00 for playing. and the easiest \$10 I ever earned I think. I saw John Wheeler thare from Boston. He said he saw Rogers last Monday in his Brothers office in Boston. said he was engaged to write for his Brother in Lawyers office. He said he was takeing lessons in Music in the afternoon of some distinguished Musician. I told him the circumstances in which he left as you wrote to me. HE WHEELER was half drunk as usual. He said he thought there was some under standing betwene you and Rogers. I told him no such thing. He left unbeknown to you. And considerable in your debt. Pushe thinks it will hurt him a good deal. Says he, "What a dam fool" "I sware" says he I'll go thare another winter. I told him how you were doing. He thought it was first rate.

I had a letter from him today to go to Barre Vt. to play for a Ball Pushee Perkins & myself they want us thursday next. It was a job we were not expecting or did not know of. Nex Friday we play at Hanover again, they have 4 cotillion parties thare Pay us 6\$ a piece a night. & 4 at Springfield \$8 a piece. Il of THE BALLS THAT I HAVE PLAYED FOR THIS WINTER I HAVE RECIEVED \$91.00 the whol amounts to about \$100.00 or more. I have engagements enough for about \$30.00 more BESIDES WHAT IS NOT ENGAGED YOU KNOW. Pushee Has 4 schools. Newport & Lebanon N.H. Woodstock Vt. and at LYME of MY OWN GIT UP. I think your advise (if you call it an advise) is verry good. But needless I have already learned to dance and can teach any one that canot dance as well as myself. I play some cottillions on the Violin like a Book but the hornpikes I play like the Dev(l. So get out the way Ole JOHN ROGERS) I me unto say I have improved on violin. As for dancing it is the easiest thing I do, I believe.

We have a school of about 25 couples here all sises (and sorts I gues) We had an extra 5th school had Post & ole Clark from Norich to play. Company from out of town. I carry 7 Girls regular, except when I want to be after some one out of town for the extra then I hire them caried HA HA PROPELL SUCSEED goit nigt those are the changes you see. BACK to BACK & than- (the other side) if you please &c. Would I not answer to call at your parties. I think if I have an invite I may call when you WIND up, if I am not engaged. to prevent that I shall want to know when it comes off in season. I have not had an invite to play at those Concerts & Balls & Exhibitions down in ole CNN. yet. Never mind it ant too late yet. I want to hear how you made out at Hartford (pleas writ)

Our dancing school goes on first rate now, opposition is over pretty much. they have found I was not to be blufed in it any how. I took the responsibility, met considerable oposition at first. You will think we have some smart dancing when tell you that there is non that attends the school that can dance any better than myself. (I should not thought so if somebody els had not said so)(the girls all say so OLE jim) Please imagine me sitting in the dining room at the table. Nancy & William gon to bed here. Father sets in the ole arm chare before the fire asleep of corse Mother at my left reading Brother Jonathon that she got to day from L. it is as big as my new horse blankaet and the pictures in it make it resemble it very much she says. I think if you were to send me one to line this with, I would be verry much obliged. I would not valuee paying something for such a paper as that, but I would not give dam for your little daily papers daily times. New-York son (I do not mean the Leady Mrs. Son) but such papers as Sarah sent occasionally. Well has Sarah been to N-Haven yet. How come off your Party. Let us know-You HAD MY BEST WISHES. that is the best I can do unless I am thare. then I could not do much better. Tell Sarah and Lucy that Aunt's CLARISA & LUCY & their HUSBANDS arived last Wednesday. It is now Wednesday. & they are all here. Mr. Jeffers & Mary, William & Nancy, Mr. Carr & and Wife Sloan & Aunt Sally Gleson & Unkle Abel and their wives are all here now. I received your letter yesterday. As for Bixbee I will see him soon tomorow if I get started for Barre in season. he Lives at Canton - has But one School this winter. that is at thetford Center. nothing to brag of. You know Bixbee as well as I do. he does not know enough to treat folks HEAR in the Country worth a dam that you know as well as I. If you get him you run your own risk. he needs no recommend. he is as disipated as ever.

But I WILL SEE HIM RITE OFF and find if he CAN go. And write to you as soon as I find out. he has had about 7 schools and is to have 6 more I think. Father says what is the reason YOU cant answer his tirn, he says I am sure you can play the VIO. as well as Bixbee I told him I could play some pices a dam sight better but I could not call. Pushee told me at Haverhill that I improve verry much in dancing. he said he took notice of me the knight before or at the School. he told me I danced well verry well. He was not stuffing either. I think I shall take Private lessons of him the first opportunity. I think I might qulify myself sos as to teach another winter if I were to put myself oute into it. but I think that one year to soon. And to make a dancing master of myself (shit) I think it a rather a low calling. William has just told me that he was in at Beals Orford yestarday, they told him that Proff. Rogers the jent that you were in company with has got home.

So I expect he will attend the Musicians Ball of course God dam him. he'l take a dam site of comfort thare I guess If he does go be is thare If I am thare any way As for old Hartford I shall not go thare unless I am insured \$150. before I start so help me- Some of our advisers think if you can get a long with what music you have thare and without Bixbee this winter or through your parties you had better. And next winter if I should learn the fancied art, We can drive a hool team of our own (Especially if I should find a Miss that can play the HARP &c &c) I say I will see Bixbee and write again SOON. You must excuse my scraching any more now. I have 7 girls to get to dancing school tonight. 3 oldest of Esq. Jeffers &c. YOURS IN HAST with respects of all, Rhodolph H

Hall Letters 36. Mar. 8, 1846; Rhodolph in Lyme to D.C. in New Haven.

Brother D. Sir,

It is more to answer your request, that I spread myself before the old desk than any love I have for letter writing. It is as much a trade to learn as any thing Is THAT IS: TO DO WELL.

I have selected a half sheet to write upon fearing a holl one would look too much like a small settlement in Oregon. I shall commense my journal from the time and place whare I last saw you. I arived in Hartford some whare about 3 o COCK. All glad to see me to appearance, Hale in particular as you told me. Played to him on his VIOLIN, said he thought I played better than a raw hand. Same at at 10 o clock next day started for Springfield, arived thare about 12. the usual hour for to leave thare for Bosting was 3 or 1/2 past I forget which. BUT the Albany train did not come on account of snow drifts on the track untill past 5. they were 2 hours behind the time. BUT WHEN THEY DID COME, twould have made LITNIN LALL to kept up to um. they came like 2 locomotives & a snow plought for they had the same, And a chane of blue mountains after em we did not start untill 6 o clock or after. wait for to fire up a 2d engine & put on a snow plough on our train. did not get in Boston until 12 o clock night. I had myself put up at the UNITED STATES hotell of CORS. the next morn was verry cool I was after Mr. Kendall you know for the Ophiclide. went to l59 Court St. doors locked from thare to writer shop, his door was locked from thare to No 5 Carlton Place. Saw Neds wife. She told me her husband was out of town & Jim with him would not be in under a week or more. I went back to Writes shop, Saw his workman he told me he had not began your Bugle. he had got the stuf, he was about mooving to another Shop, his tools were than packed & had been some time. the felow told me he would make it for you some time perhaps but thought you would be tired of waiting Writes motion. I told him you HAD ben & WAS NOW waiting very impatient for it. I took the 11 o clock train or cars for Concord. got thare about 3. the Ball was called OUR BALL the Music was Pushee Post Violins Myself Clorionett Bond Post Horn Perkins Bass of n Lebanon & another felow I do not know his name played Violin they were all stage men the managers, they found no falt at paying me 12\$ there were Betwene 80 & 90 couple hed whare the first one was last winter. I got home the 28 or saturday night about 11 o cock, found folks all comfortable. Since I got home I have cleared \$21 viz. last tuesday played with Wheeler at Union vill thedford for a Ball or Party for which they gave me \$5.00 Wednesday at hanover 6\$ for the school at Lebanon they Paid me 1.50 which was thursday night. & friday last we played at North springfield Vt. for which I recd. 10\$ all amounting to 22 1/2\$ Clearing 21\$ Since I GOT HOME

We have two more schools here at Lyme. tomorow night is an extra I supose. next thursday I am engaged to play for the last school at Newport for which they are to pay me \$10.00 and the night after at Lebanon for \$7.00 We have had a letter from Watterbury Vt. to Play for a big RailRoad Ball one week from next tuesday. It is 12 miles below Montpelier towards Burlington. I have thought of going from thare to Burlington to see the place & make that my way to NEW-YORK. But I have not got the OPHICLEIDE yet. I have written to Kendall to know if I can have it & to know how much for. I shall hear from him soon if he gets my letter. I think I shall be in N-York in 2 weeks from now perhaps sooner Wheeler will give me to jobs to close his schools

with. I should like to be in N-York sooner but I had bettter stay as long as I have playing as now sleying is first rate here now. there was from a foot to 18 inc of snow came here while I was with you. If I were you I would go to New-York as soon as I could get my PAY of the Blues. I WANT to KNOW WHEN you go.

Mother says tell you the Ruber shoes fit well she send her thanks for them, say it is all she can send she sposes.

I WANT to KNOW WHEN YOU THINK you shall go to N.Y. You have been to new-York since I left I suppose

Please write as soon as you get this, if not before R.HALL

Hall Letters 36.1. Mar. 9, 1846; E.G. Wright in Boston to D.C. in New Haven.

Friend Hall Dear Sir,

I suppose you are tired of waiting for your Bugle and I donot wonder but I will explain the reason whis that I have been verry busy this winter in Musick I have played allmost every night since the 1st of December and have not been able to do much in the shop but the season is nearly over for Dancing now although we are engaged for 2 weeks ahead every night but I shall be at work on the bugle all the time I can get and as I suppose you are not in a hurry for it I shall take time to do it well and I will write you again soon and let you know it is getting along

Yours & c E.G. Wright

N.B. Mr. B. Burdit and the remaining members of Kendalls Band wish me to write to you and request an answer immediately whether they can obtain your services to play the B flat Bugle in the band this season and likewise your brother

Yours & c E.G. Wright

Hall Letters 38. Mar. 22, 1846; Lucy in New Haven to D.C. in New York.

Dear Brother, (With Sis looking over your shoulder.)

I am lonely and want to chat a little with you, and as the "Magnetic Telegraph" is not completed between this city and the Metropolis, I employ the only means of conveying intelligence in my power--that is a confounded scratching old steel pen--Ah! how unlike the use of that flexible "unruly member" the tongue! But misfortunes come not single--I must scratch away and then await the dissolving of the elements (fire, air, earth and water) for a reply.

The letter which Sarah wrote on Tuesday last, I had the fortune to get last night 4 days after it was written. I imagine, however, that the fault was not in the Post Office department as it was mailed the 20th inst. and I received it the 21st with some writing on it enclosed in an envelope by P.W.C. But enough of Candle in real life. I was a little disappointed that Sarah did not come as I concluded from circumstances that a change would be desirable. But perhaps it will be best for her to stop till the first of April and then come with yourself to New Haven as you mentioned when you left for New York.

I shall expect her at that time without fail as I am almost sure she will have the chance of assistant in the "Lanasterian School." Mr. Lines enquired of Mr. D. the day before yesterday how much he thought Miss Hall would ask as assistant. He told him he thought she would come and let the Committee give what they thought right! He said he "wanted to come at it more definitely" and Mr. D. finally told him "he thought she would come and assist the first year for \$150.00 and then increase her salary to \$250.00. He said Miss Harrison had an assistant in view but he thought if he put her in principal she must be satisfied with that and let him have who he chose, or one that would benefit the district most. He said Miss H. would not always remain single he believed and in case of her resigning he wanted one capable of taking charge of the school--one that had kept before. He said further that they should not pay one that never kept over \$100, but he had rather pay \$150 and get an experienced teacher.

He does very much as he pleases so S. I think will have it without doubt. At any rate she has the influence of all my qualifications as a teacher in her favor and they are not a few--ha! If she has the school it will commence about the last of May. She will want to go home to stop awhile--I shall want her to sew for me some--she will want to do the same for herself and to overlook her studies some--so on the whole, me thinks to N. Haven she had better come. I know she will not get \$2 per week now but she will be in the way of getting a situation that will be permanent and more a week too.

I perceive by her writing that singing in church is in her head. I should think she had tried string long enough to let take it now.

I saw the "Hibernians" on St. Patrick's day marching after music of Blue's Band--they passed my school--the music sounded unlike Hall's Band very. The company looked well--I saw them again after school & heard the famous leader--they were playing some "Penney royal" tune. I caught Perkin's eye as it hung out of his head like an onion strung on a ham.

There is no news extant, I have 63 scholars and expect a lot more tomorrow. I wrote home yesterday and to Lydia on Friday--tell S. to write about the success of my lines & c. My respects to all friends and love to Bub & Sis. Lucy

Did you get that daguerotype? I shall expect you & S. soon and a letter sooner. Mr. D. & wife send respects.

"The Count of Death" a celebrated painting is now exhibiting at Exchange. Our schools are going in to see it on Tuesday. I had a season ticket (50 cts a piece) presented me & 2 others for one admission please come & go in with us--you & Sis. The schools are admitted for six cents a piece cash.

Hall Letters 40. May 17, 1846; Lucy in New Haven to D.C. and Rhodolph in New York.

Dear Brothers,

It is Sunday AM--I am alone--i.e. Sarah has left me and I am rather lonely--so I will according to promise and to drive away melancholy (that black Devil of the mind) write you a yarn--it may be long or short as the sequel will prove--Sarah left on Wednesday last in the 11 o'clock train of cars intending to stop at Hartford one night and then proceed directly to Claramont (up the Conn. river route) and stop there one night and proceed home at which place she arrived last night I suppose--and is today perhaps enjoying a very social and agreeable chit chat with the friends at home--for I imagine she will feel unlike attending church today judging by past experience in travelling that route. She took along with her one of your wash bowls, the best mat, the brush & the lower part of your brush broom--intending to have Jeffers make a new handle. I should have persuaded her to stay till June had it not been for the expectation of company--and she wanted to have things in apple pie order. Mrs. D. thinks of going with me and I think she will too--you must give them an invite in your letter--you know they have been very kind to us and our folks would be pleased to see them. I asked Mrs. C. twice to go with me and she made me no answer. I shall therefore say no more to her about it. I suppose, however, she wants to find out when you are going before she determines--for I know she wants you to see her about. As for Mrs. Son I do not know she is in the land of the living. Mrs. C. said she had gone up North River with Tweedy. I wrote to her by Mrs. C. inviting her to send Adele with S. & to go herself with me--and requesting an immediate ans. before S. left--but not a syllable have I heard from her either by letter or paper--yesterday Mr. Barker informed me that she was in New York. I wish you would ascertain and write whether she is or not--if she is there I think she has treated me very unhandsomely--and I shall cut acquaintance in future. If you are intending to go home this season I think you had better go when we do for I should not wonder if S. should return with me and then Mrs. C. would have no one to wait on her. I however do not care about her one way nor the other. My school has 3 weeks to keep yet in this term. I shall contrive to leave off Thursday so as to arrive home on Saturday. I want you should go very much--please write if it is probable. There is no more pleasant month for travelling in the year--being free from the excessive heat that characterizes dog days. There is nothing of importance transacting here now. The Van Amburgh collection of living animals has come and gone and with it a great excitement. S. & O. went to see them. S. went home pretty well clad--I gave her the gingham dress and bonnett and one dollar to pay her passage home amounting in all to \$6.00. I have not much cash by me now but my ship will be in in a few days. You need tell no one in N. York that Mrs. D. husband thinks of going to Lyme if you please for it may hinder some if the thought of having . I want you should look about there and see at what price I can get a good piano. I want to get a nice one and perhaps you can find a second hand one that is good toned and get it cheap--I shall have me one this summer if I hire it but I had rather have one of my own as the interest of the money for a while will not be as much by a good deal as the rent of one. If one or either of you have the money and would like to have interest on it that would be a good way to dispose of it--you know I am as sure as the Bank. I could pay you \$25 or \$30 per term very easily. I should like a harp if there were teachers for it. I suppose it is rather difficult to learn--but I think I could as I have a good deal of free time. As to the price you know I want a good one and if it comes up to \$150.00 I do not care as I can pay it in a year and not



distress myself at all. I send to you to get one there as there are second hand ones there nearly as good as new, very cheap.

I had a bundle to send to you by Lum but he had gone when we went to carry it. I rec'd a knife by him for T. but it was after S. had started so I will take it along. Please write to me soon if it is no more than a dozen words. I write with a pencil for the paper is poor and I can write faster so you can read it just as well. I shall expect a letter from you this week certain. S. will write in a few days & then I will give you the particulars. Mr. & Mrs. D. send their respects--she wishes to say to you that she has a thinking notion of going to N.H. wants you to go with her--In haste, Lucy

Hall Letters 41. May 30, 1846; Lucy in New Haven to D.C. and R. in New York.

Dear Brothers,

You perceive to begin with that the rising sun illuminates New Haven of course you will expect something brilliant from that quarter but I fear you will be disappointed for the "City of Elms" is just about as radiant at this time as the splutteration of a confounded old steel pen. It has rained, rained, rained every day this week, and I have become so accustomed to it that I begin to partake of it internally in the shape of a wretched cold on my lungs. But enough about ails.

It is Saturday night--I have just returned from school (having kept to gain a day for next week) This morning I received yours of the 24th you perceive too late to give you an answer today. I suppose you have returned from your proposed journey and have learned from the lips of Nancy (who I learn is in Roxbury) all about home, so that I can tell you no news. I had a letter from S. this week. She tells me that N. had started for Roxbury in company with William and T. Seaver. I am in hopes the change will do her good. She has left her youngest with Mary for the present--but you have probably had the particulars so I will not weary you with a long list of details, but turn to the present rage--you wish to know when it will be most convenient for us to go to N.H. There are only particular times that we can possibly go: and those are in vacations--we have therefore determined to start Friday of next week (or the 5th of June) for the "Switzerland of America". He, Mr. D., has made up his mind to go (& his wife) and has written a letter to his sister today to that effect. We should be exceedingly pleased now, with your society if convenient. I suppose you know your business best--and you know too that we should be very happy in your society. I suppose aunt Mary will accompany us from Hartford. I do not know which way we shall go but probably direct up the river--but if you come we will let you decide.

I prosper in my school first rate; 90 scholars--Mr. Lines told the Commissioners of the School fund in my presence that the school would no doubt be full next term--and said too that "they intended to keep me several years"--upon which he remarked "that it would depend upon the wages they paid me"--Mr. Lines said they "mean't to give me a good salary."

About that "damned piano." R. need not swear so like damnation--I can understand language without being so strongly affirmed--I do not care about your paying for it; but I want you should price some. I saw a harp advertised in a New York paper at \$25.00--you will say I suppose that it is good for nothing at that price--but you can sometimes get a good instrument cheap--but you need not trouble yourselves about it--I can get me some kind of one of Baird. I saw in the bill of the Park Theatre that your Band were going to play before you did, as Mr. D. takes the N.Y. papers every day almost. I saw also a letter advertised Mr. David G. Hall. I presume it is for you.

Please write to me if you go or not to Lyme as I want to hear from you & N. & all the friends. I have written this in a few minutes consequently in great haste, for I want it to go out in the boat tonight so you can get it on Monday--would write more but have not room or time.

Yours truly Lucy

P.S. Mr. & Mrs. D. send respects & want to have you go to N.H. with them.

**Letters 42-62 (June 2, 1846 to May 3, 1847)**

Hall Letters 42. June 2, 1846; D.C. and Rhodolph Hall in New York to Lucy in New Haven.

Dear Sister

According to your request I poke a little with this old stub there is no news in particular we got back from Boston saturday. found the folks all well. Nancy was very smart for her better then I ever expected to see her again last fall. She says it agrees with her first rate the sea breeze.&c. she stood it to go in two days She said you must come that way when you went or come from home &c. We had a good time in Boston \$150 Concert &c saw unkle George Culver he is a jolly old fellow very much pleased to see us gave him a free ticket to the concert also Rus'l Frank & his Bird Mr Hastings wife & M. Wait & Mary.

I have given up the idea of going to N.H. this season. Not but that I should like to go first rate but I cannot leave. You have my best wishes that you have a pleasant time and enjoy your selves. the folk will be glad to see you. Give my best respects to all that enquire for me tell tham that I shall come home some time

D.C.Hall

Dear Sis

I want to accompany you to N.H. verry much inded. I must give up the ideah of going at present, as I have paid out ove \$100'00 for uniform instrument and board and clothing &c. And have only recd \$33'00 some where thare abouts, for Playing. Our business just begins to be good. for the afternoon parade in Boston we received \$10'50 for the concert Cleared 4'50 each. We had to pay our own fair both ways and while thare. We cleared \$12'50 each out of the excursion went free on board the boat. had to play a few pices. Next Monday we have to play for a company of volunteers, going out of town to shoot target. prepairing for Texico I suppose. We shall have #3.00 for that & Tuesday is the temperance celebration will be 6.50 each at least. And while business is good and increasing it would not be good policy for me to leave. We are expecting to go to Phelidelphia before long. And to Boston once or twice more in coarse of the season we pleased them so well while thare. You may give OLD SPECTS to all such as take the trouble to enquire after me for they may kneed them if they are disposed to look after me a great deal ha! ha!

Tell Father to take care of himself until after 4th of July. And if business does not hold out to be FIRST RATE here, I will Give him a Serinad some saturday knight. And will fetche him a pen knife as big as he can lift and Mother a pinch of snuff so big She cant feel it. So here is a good journey to you. all My best wishes attend you. Here is a HOW DO YOU DO to all hands. R.Hall

Hall Letters 43. June 25, 1846; Lucy in New Haven to D.C. and R. in New York.

Dear Brothers,

Having returned from my visit proposed in my last, I hasten to give you an account of it, aware that you are waiting in anxious expectation its arrival. We (i.e. Mr. & Mrs. D. and myself) started the next day after our schools closed in the cars at 8 o'clock--arrived in Hartford at 10 where we found uncle & aunt & Lydia--chatted a little with L. & then on we went to Springfield accompanied by uncle & aunt; there he left us & went in the western train--but she kept our company to Hanover--of the incidents in our journey I will not speak in particular--suffice it to say that we enjoyed it well excepting that I was confounded stage sick riding in the night. Arrived at Hanover who should be seen but Hail Simonds on the steps at the Dartmouth Hotel, greatly to the surprise of aunt as she supposed him in Albany earning his \$10 per week. She took him into the stage and went to Emmons. The last I hear of them. We arrived at Lyme at 9 o'clock Saturday eve where we found S. & T. in readiness to conduct us home. Found the folks as well as usual and very glad to see us. Of the particular incidents relating to visiting I know you do not wish an account. Mr. & Mrs. D. were cordially received by their namesakes--I visited with them only at John's & Dolph's. There is not much news afloat in Lyme--It seemed to me that it was Sunday all the time that I was there--and at church the old shell looked as if they had emptied it to wash--so empty. There are but few strong ties that bind me to Lyme--and those are within the limits of my own family; a father, mother, brothers and sisters. I find father & mother have grown old even in one short year, father in particular--he is very poor--his toes trouble him exceedingly--one that he froze and the other the old horse trod on and he took cold in it, and it was very much swollen and he did not know which to limp on. He is expecting "the boys" at home soon and that comforts him much. I think it is too bad that he is obliged to work so--I proposed to him to come here--that I would pay house rent for my board--he smiled saying he should like to live here--and he did not mean to work so another year if he lived--did not know as he should live--said he would rent his farm for 5 years if he could if the boys did not intend to do something with it. Now boys I think that they ought not to be so cumbered in their old age--if they are, mark my words, they will, I fear, stand it but a little while--they have enough to support them handsomely if it was in the right shape, and I hope they will live to spend every cent. Friday morn, 26 June

I was so tired last night that I did not complete my yarn--so I give it this morn. Charles arrived last night from N.Y. with a bundle from you which I will do according to orders. He says you are coming to N.H. next week so do not disappoint us. Now for the remainder of my story.

After spending our allotted time very pleasantly at L. in calling & being called upon, we started on Thursday or the 18th for Boston and arrived there about 7 in the eve--found N. in good spirits--she thinks she is upon the gain--can use her leg a little--spoke of you many times as well as the friends at L. thinks she shall come to N.H. during the summer if smart. They think they shall get me a place in R. as teacher at \$350 per year with only 50 scholars & an assistant at that, if they do I shall most certainly go as my task is so hard here with less pay i.e. \$250, and nearly 100 scholars--well I stopped at R. till Monday (Mr. & Mrs. came on Sat.) and then started & proceeded and the engine with 3 or 4 baggage cars ran off the track and this detained us an hour & half,

and when we arrived in Springfield the cars had been gone 1/2 hour and I was detained till 8 in the eve & arrived safe at 11. Commenced my term Tuesday have 85 scholars to begin with, more than I have ever had & it will be full soon I presume. Mary Jeffers is with me--I shall make her assist me some. I board at Mr. D's yet--pay \$1.00 per week for M. I think Jeffers will be this way to live one of these years. I cannot write half I want to for want of time, but I hope to see you soon and then I will talk. Father will be disappointed if both or one of you do not go to help him hay--he has a good hand now from Dorchester--he don't know how to be otherwise--please write soon

In haste            Lucy

Hall Letters 44. June 27, 1846; Lucy in New Haven to Sarah & Family in Lyme.

Dear Sis With Father & Mother

I spend the first leisure that is at my command in complying with your last request to "write soon"! As you already aware I left East Ville Thursday morn in rather low spirits and had not proceeded far before I was as sea-sick as death--well after having given Jonah leave of absence I felt a little better--at Canaan I purchased a very strong cup of tea which did me not a little good--though I could eat nothing till I left the stage--which we did at Concord taking the last train for Boston arriving there about 7 o'clock covered with dust & (as children say) "tired to death." We there intended taking a hack for Roxbury but on getting into it I found it to be one of the most despicable means of conveyance--a cab--Mr. D. was not aware of the trick having never rode in one. I laughed with Mrs. D. at him some which he did not relish very well. We did not know where to find William's and so we went to the Hotel & took tea & brushed off the dust & then were conducted by our host to W.--that is myself & Mary--Mr. & Mrs. D choosing to remain during the night at the hotel.

I found N. sleeping--she could hardly believe it me. (poor soul) She was very glad to see me. She is much better than I expected to find her--can walk up & down stairs without help--if she gets able, I think she will come and stop with me a while--She thought she should & so did W. if she does not I shall go there in Sept. & spend my next vacation. Little sis is smart, she knew me & called me by name; awaking out of sleep. The next morn W. put the colt into a nice carriage & waited on Mr. & Mrs. D. to Mr. Hastings & carried them all over R. & B. They were very much delighted with R. thought it threw New Haven in the shade--it does look beautiful at this season. Mr. D & wife staid there till Sat. Morn & then left; W. carried them to the cars in his express. M. & I remained till Monday which did not suit Mr. D. very well as he wished our company, but my wishes were paramount to his so I did as I pleased.

Time does not wait--so Monday morn soon came with its parting scene on which I do not like to dwell. W. carried us to the cars accompanied by Mrs. H. & Sarah Anne Morey. We were soon on our way & pursued it nicely until a little past Worcester & then on turning out on another track for others to meet us or pass the Engine & 3 or 4 baggage cars ran off the track & hindered us 2 hours & we did not arrive in Springfield in time to take the P.M. train--it having been gone 1/2 hour--there we staid from 2 till 8 & arrived in N.H. at 11--thus ended our much talked of journey to N.H. Tuesday morn. I commenced operating upon ideas--never opened my school with so many having 85--have no assistant this term.

But Mary will answer a better purpose than my assistant last term--by the way she stood her journey first rate--likes very much indeed & enjoys herself up to the eyes. Mr. D. & wife appear pleased with her--she with myself is treated in good shape & have no reason to complain of stern fate--tell her father & mother that I intend making a teacher of her & that they need have no uneasiness about her--but for themselves; & extract the root of East Village immediately if they please.

Ann Smith & Miss Wright called on me last night--the latter arrived Sat. eve. came directly down the river. Ann is going home next week & I suppose you will see her. Charley came from N.Y. Thursday--brought a very common keepsake from the boys--that is a bundle of dirty clothaes. Said they were coming to N. Haven next week--the fare is now only \$1.00. They played at the Bowery on Wednesday eve. for Soot's farewell benefit. Every fair day the band plays at Hoboken. I have written to D. & R. this week but have received no ans. so I cannot tell when they will go home--do not know but it will be when they come here. Mrs. Son is up North River yet--I hear nothing from her. Mrs. C. & Pierre came to North Branford & spent a week while we were away--this is all I know of them. N.Haven is very much as when you left--N. & W. are very anxious that I come to R. & H's folks too--say they are building a new house for a school & that I can get \$350.00 with only 50 scholars & an assistant at that. That Mr. Fay (the committee) enquires for me every opportunity. Do not think me discontented for I shall stick here till a better chance offers.

But I really think a chance like that described by them would be far preferable to this & you need not wonder at all if I avail myself of it--if I have the privilege--first because I can get more pay with less labor & then it is nearer home & in the midst of friends & my own kindred. You perceive I possess the pure Yankee spirit.

I suppose brother Alvah will despair of my retaining a permanent abiding place but tell him that by the time he gets ready to leave Lyme I shall be established & that he can go to no worse place than East V. unless he intends to shake his feathers in a place that partakes of the infernal. I am in good spirits you perceive yet. So tell Alvah to get out of that place if possible. Mary came for half price all the way--costing \$4.43--so she has a little left which will not be spent needlessly as I have the care of it. William is doing well; is calculating to make out a payment to father in Sept. Tell mother that N. was very thankful for those apples. I have some for the boys but I do not know as they will keep. Mr. & Mrs. D. send respects to all--please write soon. If you have no pen use pencil,  
In haste Lucy

My respects to E.T.S. & mother--I received a paper from her on arriving here; to Dr. G. & wife Mrs. W. Mrs. Lamsterte, Caroline and all the friends.



Hall Letters 49. Oct. 10, 1846; Rhodolph in N.Y. to Lucy in New Haven.

Dear Sis

Another opportunity has presented itself where I may write a word or two. I suppose you are expecting to see me every sat. eve now according to my word. But my Business prevents. I have given up the Idea of playing at the theatre every knight for Kendall has made an engagement to play 3 knights in a week at the same Ampitheatre for \$2'00 each knight a piece. Being the same as if I played steady every knight in the week at \$1'00 a knight. So it gives us a much better chance to play for Balls which ar comencing now rather brisk. We played at the theatre last knight for the first knight with FULL BAND It took first rate CROWDED house WONDERFUL APLAUSE &c. Benhan was thare will tell you something of us stayed with us last knight first rate time. I played last Wednesday knight For a Ball at Vaix Hall the first of this season for which I recd \$3'00 last monday went to Burgoin POINT target excursion for which I recd \$2'50 D. recd \$3'00 he led the BAND. tuesday last regtmental Perade in City Recd \$3'00 each. thursday target Excursion at Bulls ferry \$2'50 each together with playing in the theatre amounts to \$13'00 for my playing this week you will see. Next week we have 3 or 4 perades Beside playing in the theatre which will amount to as much more I think. Monday we have to perade with a fire comp. for target shooting is the only thing that prevent my returning with Benam to N-Haven to knight. But Excuse my coming untill more leisure. I will visit you before I return to Lyme N.H. As I expect to spend the winter thare. Shall know as soon as I here from Pushee from Father &c. We are well In good business now. We have Something like 10 or 12 engagments ahead. My respects to all hands as they (my compliments) are a sort of spontaineous production you know.

Yours most respectfully in hast                      R.H.

Hall Letters 50. Oct. 18, 1846; Lucy in New Haven to D.C. and R. in New York.

Much loved Brothers,

Sunday with me is usually a long day--but when to its longevity, so wearying, is added a dark, cloudy sky with a cold drizzling rain and a lonely moaning Oct. wind it also envelops my spirits in an attendant melancholy which I have vainly tried to shake off by reading. Therefore I will pen a few lines to you thinking that in so doing I may gain a double purpose--that of interesting you and at the same time invigorate my drooping spirits--which writing almost invariably accomplishes.

I will therefore proceed to sketch to your mind's eye a correct delineation of occurrences that have transpired since I saw you in our notabale "City of Elms." The city itself you may be aware is fast spending its beauty on the wild winds of autumn. Already the "hectic flush" of consumption is visible in its varied foliage and even now the bleak winds are humming a Requiem over the remains of departing summer.

But I will not pursue this theme so fraught with melancholy fearing that I shall not accomplish my object aforementioned. Therefore to my subject. What would you say to me bubs should I tell you that I have succeeded (i.e. Mr. D. & myself) in getting an appointment for Sarah as a teacher here in this famed city! would you believe it? It is verily so notwithstanding doubts! and a "Messenger Bird" in the form of a letter, yea, of two, have ere this soared away amid our Granite hills to inform her of her appointment and she may be even now like myself be rejoicing over the appointment. And before another Sunday shall have come she will probably bless my lonely hours by her bodily presence (as she says she has in dreams) About two weeks since I informed the Committee that unless I had some help I could not continue in my school that my health would not permit--beside I could not sustain the reputation of the school in having so many to attend to with my own individual labors. It was heaping too much on my shoulders and it would roll off. Well they concluded to give me one immediately and appropriated \$75.00 saying that there were many who would be glad to come for that. I hardly knew what to do about proposing S. for I knew she could not come for that price. But I thought I would "go it"! so I told Mr. Lines if they had no one engaged I should like to have my sister--he said they had none--told what they concluded to give &c. I said to him I could not think of her coming for less than \$100.00--said he should like to have her but their funds were small but Mr. D. talked him all out of that & he said he would talk with the others about it--he did & one was in favor it & Day wanted to think of it so last Wednes. Mr. L. said that probably they should have her so I sent a letter to that amount on Thursday. Mr. L. wanted to see Mr. Day before deciding & wanted I should write to S. & have it ready by Friday morn to put in the office if Mr. Day had decided. I did so and found it was a unanimous vote of the 3--so I send on my letter & she will have both today & I shall expect her by Thursday or Friday. Now is that not a lucky hit for her? I shall calculate to give about \$1.00 per week which will make her \$150.00 as I am to have \$300.00 next year. I intend boarding ourselves in the spring if not before. I had a letter from her last week saying she was going to R. with N's babe--she is not at all content there & I think she will be heartily rejoiced at the news. I do not think mother needs her much as they have no man now--he has gone home sick. Mary thinks of going to stop with Nancy through the winter--perhaps I shall go on with her on my vacation--can't you contrive to go at

that time? I think Mrs. Jeffers will go down with the babe in Dec. & S. come directly down the river. I wish you would come and see us next Sat. S., will be here too. Stephen Jeffers is dead he came home sick in the spring--has been ailing for some time--about 2 weeks since he went out to the barn & his father was obliged to help him in--he took off his clothes, went to bed & never woke up to know anything. On Sunday morn he was a corpse--nothing new there. Alfred Bixby has been here to Mr. D's while she was in N.Y. He looks very much like uncle Lum. He is going to keep school here in Ct. the next 5 months. I heard from N. last week she wants you to write to her she has forgot your No.

S. is out of patience with you for not writing to her--thinks you think much of her if silence expresses it.

I rec'd a line by Benham from you was much obliged--& that our folks might know how you are employed I sent it in my letter home. H. enquired for S. appeared quite pleased that she is coming to N.H.

I have a first rate place to board at Mr. Weed's in the Carpet factory. I think we shall board ourselves as soon as S. comes--there is a grocery next door & Mr. W. will let us a room & fixings till this term is up. Mr. D's folks appear to think we shall board there but you do not catch this child again--a burnt child dreads the fire. I'll see her eternally blessed first. I like him first rate & will do every thing for his good but the d'l take her & in so doing he will have his due. I am glad you enjoy life so well, I have since I came here. I wish you would write if you cannot come but come Sat. if you can. My respects to Mr. & Mrs. C. & Mrs. S. tell them I live high. M. sends her love & with mine I say,  
Lucy

P.S. S. wants you to g Post & get the June No. of the Columbia gressive as that is missing. L.

Hall Letters 53. Dec. 20, 1846; Rhodolph in Albany to Lucy and Sarah in New Haven.

Deary, (Peary) Sisters:

I have once more taken the task of letter writing upon me: or of conversing with you through this parchment. We have performed the duty of writing to Father & brother Morey since we have been here which is one reason we have not answered your request before. I will not write the particulars in this as you saw them in the one I wrote to Mr. D. I suppose. We have our pay every Monday morning. It comes punctual.

We did not commence our performance as soon by 3 days as we expected. but rec'd pay from the time we were engaged which was Monday. Commenced Wednesday I have rec'd \$30.00 for the past week. We have a performance every Saturday afternoon & eve. Occasionally or once a week we have to parade in the streets about the city. First time was before sleighing we came out on horse back. Bass drum and all 10 of us. Attracted great attension. I will give you a sketch of yesterdays performance. We came out in the streets from 10 o'clock A.M. untill 1 P.M. Afternoon performance commenced at 2 o'clock P.M. Evenings performance at 7 out at 10 1/2 after that, SPALDING, (the conductor) wanted us to go and Seranade. Seranaded the new Governor, he was unwell however, so we did not get a peap at him. Sent word for us to call for what we like on his expence next went to the Mayors Blowed him up. He called on a COLATION & SHAMPAIGN. He presided at the head of the table. After partaking of the refreshments, the Mayor gave us a very worthy centiment. We seranaded the conductor & other officers of the circus. By, that time it had got to 12 o'clock or Sunday & Kendall had got so he felt first rate. He wanted to seranade where he boards the Clinton Hotell. Said it would answer every purpose inside. So we went into the spaceway & played, before we got through the first piece, there were 4 or 5 of the circus riders dressed themselves & came down. 4 of the band, Kendall, Downing & the Italian and Emmitt board at the Clinton and about 8 or 10 of the actors. Kendalls family are in Boston all right. And he is happy as a clam, has \$30.00 per week. We have given first rate satisfaction so far. We are expecting to go to Montreal after New Year. (But it is not decided yet.) to spend the rest of the winter. There are 4 ladies that ride in the performance. Spalding the conductor & proprietor is very much pleased with his company. I think he will keep them together, for another summer. Wants us to travel with him another season. I think we shall go to Montreal as they are not doing a very smashing business here, so far.

We are enjoying ourselves first rate at present. The most that troubles me is my old humor, which is coming out as agreable and dam noble as ever. I have nothing in particular, interesting to you I suppose, the widow-Gilot, our land lady has a daughter about 13 or 14 years old that plays the pianoforte and sings very well. We play with her some, which pleases her very much. If your business would permit I should like very much to have you make us a visit here I think we could make it very agreable, as Albany is a very pleasant place. And we have a quiet jenteal place to board. D. & I are all that are concerned with the circus that boards at Washington Hall. I wind up and give D. one page to write.

Respects to Dimick & Wife

R. Hall

P.S. We have not heard from home, or any one since we left N-Haven. Did you spend vacation at Roxbury Mass. When have you heard from Lyme. What is the topic of conversation. Where do you board & c. & c. What is the news, write, write. We saw Uncle David & Aunt Mary in N.Y. the day we left. They board at the Western Hotel in Courtland St. has a store in Beakman St. Owns a foundery in Jersey City doing a smashing business. Take care of my things. Coat & violin trombone cane & c. & c. I should [like] them very much if they could be got here safe. If you should learn of any one coming direct to Albany I wish you would send the Violin if nothing more. I got my trunk safe for 5 shillings,

Respects R.

Mr. Ainsworth gave us a call, the first week we were here, on his way to New Haven. Promised to call again. I was going to have sent for my trunk by him. But he did not call as he was mistaken in the hours of the steamboat. Do not forget to write soon.

Take care of yourselves Rhodolph.

Hall Letters 54. Dec. 29, 1846; Lucy in New Haven to D.C. and Rhodolph in Albany.

Dear Brothers,

We have just closed school--the juvenile portion have retired and left us a warm comfortable room (the school room) and abundant materials for writing, and how ably do we wield the old steel in reply to your welcome letter of Dec-- As we proposed to you while here, we visited Roxbury during vacation--closed school 4 inst. started for "the city of notions" on Sat. morn proceeded on our journey nothing impeding our progress more than is usual in the monotonous thundering of a Railroad Car--arrived in B. about 6 o'clock Sat. eve--found William in waiting at the depot (was the first man we saw) to transport us to his comfortable, pleasant home in R. I call it pleasant for all is so in the society of our dear sis. N. & husband--found N. in her usual health & spirits--slowly but surely improving. We spent one P.M. & eve at Mr. H's--they send their best respects to you. Took dinner one day at Washburn's. They also send their regards to you as also Mrs. Fuller whom we saw but a few minutes--she resides in Pitts St. She dresses the players evenings at the "Howard Atheneum" for which she receives \$2.00 per week. She is in good spirits--took tea with Gardner & wife all hands of us & spent the evening. They get a good living & I guess he gets good drink. Ale perhaps--is as fat as ever--her health is not so good as when in the country. Ross & wife spent the evening with us--all in good spirits--played whist with others of our company all the evening. They all seemed to think you doing first rate. William & Frank have just as much business as they can do & good pay. While there W. had a letter from you at which they were much pleased. You sent your respects to F. & his Bird which were distributed as required and in return they send theirs. They have trouble enough in the camp--he is rather tired of her & manifests his dislike which makes her cry & sniff & so jealous of me that she can hardly endure to have my name mentioned. H's folks speak very highly of me to her which makes her feel all over--But let them stew it is a strong broth anyway. Risley came there & spent one night while we were there the last we spent in R. & came out in the cars as far as Brighton with us--he is doing pretty well in a hotel, thinks of returning home in a short time--he is as nice as ever. It is so dark I ca'nt write straight so I will go home to tea & finish this eve. Corner of Chapel & Olive Sts. 8 o'clock--have had my tea & c. & feel first rate again. That doctress Mrs. Pierson has examined a lock of mother's hair & prescribed medicine for her. "Wright's Vegetable Pills" & catarrk & I purchased it for her & W. is going to send it the first chance--she ordered also pepper bags to be worn on her feet & behind her ears when she is troubled with the headache. N. said Mrs. P. acted as mother did when she is sick--held her head appeared in such pain at the stomach that her husband was obliged to take off the spell before she could proceed--said her stomach lapped by & that she must have something done for her or feet will begin to swell & c. --says "how much that woman has suffered"!--says "she has worked & lifted more than a man ought to"! We have not heard from home since in R. M. had a line from Ellen the folks were in their usual health. Oh! I forgot we had some letters from E.T.S.--she had been out to see mother--said she was lonely on Thankjsgiving day though Jeffers' family & Y's were there. Nothing special coming off there--Carroll is cooning L.P. yet.

I paid Demick the demand for the Odd Fellows as requested--\$1.35--if you please D. you may pay it to R. as I am owing him. There is nothing coming off here now. They talk of having a Ball for New Years but I think it will come off about as that did last

year--"at the little end of the horse"!

Mr. Quinn has been unwell for some time & not able to conduct his school. It is thought that he is in consumption--very much as Capt. Watrous only not half in so good spirits. He has a school of 200 I believe but it is not in operation now. If Pushee were here he would do first rate. Mr. Jessee Pushee from H. called on us a few days ago--Oh! how smart--He was in the city on business & hunted us up--called at Lum's & Mr. D's for us--D thought him Risley & thought they had lost me. I expect he swelled. Lum had to hail us as we were passing him in the street to know who he was. I suppose he thought him a beau & we did not undeceive him. I wrote 2 pieces for the Democrat & they came out while we were in R. in both the daily & weekly. I will send you one if I can get one--created quite an excitement to know who L.F. Hall was. Charley Jones is to have something to do with that paper after Jan. 1st. I will leave the rest to S. as I have filled my space. In much love

Lucy      Write often!





lungs to the night air, in love,

Sarah

Hall Letters 55. Jan. 12, 1847; Rhodolph in Albany to Lucy & Sarah in New Haven.

Dear Sisters,

As I do not FEEL verry ceremonious, just now, I shall not attempt to address you in a verry JENTEEL manner. As I write privately, you must Excuse all such as has a tendency to shock your MODESTY. Please excuse vulgarity, as I wish to write more truth than POETRY.

We are well as usual, as far as health is concerned. For the past Six weeks I have Recd. \$90'00 for playing in the Circus, and for it. \$3'00 Each for playing for the Burges Corps, Military comp. part of N. Years day. Called on the Mayor had a Colation &c. Called on other jentry, Making \$93'00 I have recd. since I came to Albany. yesterday we recd. our last weeks salery, and with it our DISCHARGE, OUR, meaning KENDALL, D. & Myself & Downing, 4 of us. It is rather disagreeable after so pleasant a situation, to be deprived of it. But the Concern is not doing business enough to pay us our salery. They expect to shut up the shop after this week.

I am verry sorry as I have just got acquainted with a few jents and Ladies. Some of the Cenators Board here. One of which has his daughter & Neice with him Boarding her and attending school Learning the piano. so we have 2 pianos in druming, most of the time. they are about 18 I should think, they are some what smashed with me or my playing. as I play with them some and for them to dance, on the violin & clart. there are 6 or 7 Lady Boarders & about 12 or 15 jents of us we have Music & Dancing af tea. I asure you Fitch is a FIRST RATE fellow, does evry thing, for our enjoyment. We are verry sory to leave here, but Kendall intends having a BENEFIT CONCERT & BALL in one. Next week sometime. He will have a crowd I think. We Intend giving a Concert in Troy to. But have not decided which way to go after. whether to go East to Boston or towards Buffalow. But we are going Concerting again unless SPALDING hires us over again and pays us more wages. He is trying to engage Kendall for to travel with him next season But he Kendall wont engage so long fore hand. We should not have got turned up if Spalding had not been in company. ther 6 of them in company, and his companions are not able to ho their row with him. they have lost \$1600 allready. But Spalding would not mind that if he was a lone, he would keep the company together. he is not going in partnership next sumer.

It is possible that we may make arangments so as to spend the winter in Albany yet. but it is rather doubtfull I think.

I have a letter from Pushee a few days ago. the Musicians Ball Comes of the 29 of this month at Lebanon. He wants D & Myself to Come, verry much. He says the Ladies in the Country all inquire for me. Expect to see me at the Musicians Ball. I may go.

Things are rather uncertain yet.

D is Coping Music. & I have improved a short time in writing to you. Although not very interestin or much news. there is nothing VERRY PLEASING except there is a Lady Cornfed weighing about 200 and of immense Magnitude & huge preponderosity, that declares herself in Love. (It is said that she pises COLOGNE & shits NUTMEGS & HAS NO BAD SMELL ABOUT HER) Dutch. Amen.

If you have anything in particular to discourse to us. Please let us have it in the coarse of One or two week from this date for I think we shall leave for good in that time, perhaps sooner. Dan Emet & wife think of going Concerting with us. She is a fine Songstress. he was a Member of our Bank on Ophicleyed and Violin. he was Leader the Verjnia minstrals in the Ampitheatre N. Y. known by the name of Old Dan Emets.

We Recd. a letter from Brother T & Father New Years day Deacon Adolph Dimick is dead you know before this is suppose.

Our folks were well as usual

Our Respects to Dimock & Wife and to those that take the trouble to enquire. As you have nothing to do but to take Care of yourselves See that you do it. Our best wishes Accompany you.

When we get tired talking English, we talk Dutch is is just as well understood here and all of a price.

Yours in haste Respectfully

WRITE R.

P.S. If we travel you shall hear from us.

Hall Letters 56. Feb. 21, 1847; Rhodolph & D.C. in Buffalo to Lucy & Sarah in New Haven.

Dear Sisters,

I shall omit my long Introduction, and column of EXCUSES for not writing before. (although reasonable) to make room for something more interesting, I hope. I will give you our PUPROGRAM in RECUMTATION.

Our Concerts & Balls in Albany came off with a RUSH especially the last one. which was COMPLIMENTARY to Mr. Kendall. Since we left Albany, the places we have honored thus far with our CALLS, are TROY, SCHENECTADY AMSTERDAM & LITTLE FALLS, ROME CYRACUSE two nights, Auburn, visited the Prison. Watelo, Geneva, Canadagua ROCHESTER two nights. we were then 30 miles from Covington. We were to give a concert at Betava on Friday night. which is only 16 miles from Covington. Well. D & Myself left Rochest after the Concert 2 o'clock in the morn in the carrs for Betava. there being but 2 trains a day, we then hired a horse & Bugy & drove through mud and snow drifts, arived at Peori Post Office about 12 oclock. inquired for Holstead. Found him & Aunt Clarisa at the P.O. they were traiding, as the man that is P.M. keeps Store to. She was EXTREEMLY glad to see us you may suppose. For as soon as She found who we were, she grabed hold of us as though she was going to devour us both in a minute. Says she, WHY, WHARE! IN THE WORLD! DID!! you come from. O!! I'm SO! glad to see you &c. &c. &c. &c. The first LOOK she gave us would have mesmerized the very (d-l) I never saw so sharp, keen, eye in a person before.

They led the way home from the P.O. which was 2 miles. By baring in mind, Fathers inquisitiveness, you can calculate something WITHIN the distance in which they live, of the innumerable inquiries. She had not time to ask one thing so many times over, as what Father does. She being 21 years younger than Father is not quite so forgetfull.

I could see considerable of Fathers looks, in her features. She is verry large and has a solid look to her, And a first rate eye. What was more painfull to her, than to learn that we could not stay with her but about 3 hours. when we told her, she could hardly belive it. her conversation was then only interupted occasionly with an exclamation, O! how GLAD I AM TO SEE YOU. And. O! how I WANT TO SEE YOUR FATHER. And how sorry I am you canot stay longer. She inquired about every body and every thing. in Lyme. her children are all smart 4 in number one girl 3 Boys. tough harty looking fellows.

She got us a FIRST RATE dinner, with kinds of Preservs Peach Plumb Quince & Citron. two or 3 kinds of pie sweet cake and TEA Short cake meet and tator &c, &c. We sat down to eat at 3 o'clock while eating Aunt leaned back, says, how I do wish your Father was HERE NOW. said it seemed as though she could not stand it any longer without seeing him and the rest of the folks. Said she would go to Lyme one year from next sumer. Said that Holstead did not believe it, but she would not wait any longer. they have a very pleasant plase, it was rather fogy and dark the day we were thare. We had not time to look about. did not leave the house after we went in untill we came away. we were with her 4 hours, only from 12 o'clock untill 4. & time past lively. We left

them, day before yesterday at 4 o'clock having 16 miles of bad traveling to go on strange road, to BETAVA where we were to commence Concert at 7 o'clock. had a good horse, we were there, in time but had not time to take tea or get warm. We could play the shakes first rate, for my teeth would chatter when we went into the Concert room. We arrive in Buffalo yesterday about 11 o'clock. We had a \$68'00 house last eve. We give another Concert tomorrow eve. We Play again in Rochester next Thursday. We saw where Sam Patch jumped his last jump at Genesee falls at Rochester. We intended to have gone to NIAGARA FALLS to day if it had not stormed so, to see the great Natural Curiosity. Next Friday we give another Concert at Canadagua on our return. Were 16 miles from Aunt Hannah when there. We intend to go and see her if possible. We play again in Auburn week from tomorrow I believe. We are going to call on HONOR HOPKINS she that was MISS Honor Miller Aunt Hannahs girl. She lives only 7 miles from Auburn. I think we shall be fortunate enough to visit pretty much all of the friends, And make a pleasant excursion of it. there are 6 of us that play as Brass Band, & one HINGHISH Lady that sings verry well. She is wife of D.D.Emit of our Band. he was leader of the negro minstrel Band in the Ampitheatre in N.Y. She sang songs there and in the Ampitheatre in Albany this winter. We are going to Lyme on a visit when we get Back to Albany. We have talked of going another tour to white-Hall Middleborough Vt. Burlington, Montpelier through Vt. & N.H. to Boston But I hardly think we shall. Kendall is in favor of that rout thinks we we can do well, he has engaged to travel in the spring with the Circus. We have not engaged yet. Expect to when we get to Albany. We Shall go and see the ole folks before we commence traveling. Kendall is going to see his folks the same time.

It is getting dark and I must adjourn for want of room &c. If you have any or business of importance, Please direct to Messrs. Hall of Kendalls Band AUBURN as we are to be there in about 8 days or at Albany in 15 days.

I wrote to Brother T & Father last Sunday week today while we were in Geneva. We RECD. your LETTER & PAPER you sent us in Albany. I wish you would let Dimick have \$1'00 and ask him if he will be so kind as to pay my dues to the Lodge. they Become due the first of the 3 month or 1 day of April. D did not write because he is busy in writing Music, but sends his best Respects as well as Myself. to Dimick and wife, also to those that have the Regards to inquire. R.

Write, or do as you like about it. We would like to hear from you very well. People are as Duch. as the Devil here in York State.

I have thought that I was mean enough for every day use, But when I find one Person so mean that their Shaow wont follow them; Then! I, take encouragement. We are just as eve.

Your Friends and Brothers

R. & D.C.Hall

American Hotell Buffalo

Hall Letters 59. Apr. 8, 1847; Rhodolph in Lyme to D.C. in New Haven.

Dear Brother,

I received your Letter last eve. & one from Spalding at the same time or so near the same that I had not time to read yours before the arrival of his, a COPY of which I will give THEE WORD for WORD and LETTER for LETTER, although, he is such a dam bad writer that it is hard to imitate &c &c

Dear Sir Yours of the 28 Inst. is recieved & I hasten to answer. thoh in the making up the Band. I have left everything to the Controul of Wm Kendall- He is in Boston, & has filled up the Band I belive- Shuld the Band not be full I should be pleased to have you with us, & will cause you to be informed of it

Yans Truly      G.R.Spalding

The above is as correct a copy as the pen can producae, with the aid of my Eye & Ear. I perceive by your letter that he, Spalding has played the part of a DAM RASCAL. in misrepresenting us to K. You & Kendall BOTH, KNOW HOW IT IS NOW. And if he & you go without me. I have but one favor toask. that is, that he furnish me with the \$6'00 change that I accomodated him with. And then He & You to if you like, may go untill old time overtakes you, and furnishes you with a white night cap or untill he takes the fur & wears holes in the one you now weare. &c.&c

I have not answered J K Kendalls Letter yet. I dont know what to write him better than that I will answer his request. You say if you do not go with Ned, that you MAY want me to go with you, But if you do you have not made any provision for me but I must run the risk if I run to the Devil.-

I think I shall start for Roxbury one week from next Saturday or Monday, perhaps before. If you have ay thing of importance let me hear from you within that time.

Well Gallsisess

I suppose you are spreading yourselves about as usual. I have not much to write you as D. can or has given you all the news. Since he left however I CALLED a short time to Mr. & Lady Dickeys. they made me promise to call and spend the eve. I done so. played with him, which pleased BOTH MUCH. Yesterday recd. a call from them &c &c &c and.c. She speaks in HIGH terms of E.T.Shaw. wished me to call and see her. I told her, did not call on any except Maried Ladies, &c. I called to see Carol. Day before yesterday. he is getting more smart. Lucretia says you agred to write to her S. I told her she ought to put you in mind of it. She said she had made her mind up to WAIT a WHILE.

MRS. DICKEY is going west to spend the summer in company with her Parents and Brother to VISIT a BROTHER. She intends going in May I believe She spoke of answering your letter L. SOON.

D. If Dick Williss offers you that \$6'00 You need not refuse it. if he should not offer it,

and you have a chance to ask him. put him in mind of it. And if you cannot get it any other way, Steel it.

When you get among the REMARCABLES Please Remember the REMNANTS.

And when you strain for B-natural Be careful you don't get B- for I should rather B-flat.

Galls when you get hard up for news. L. you can speak to us in PARABLES. S. can write in MIRACLES

W A R  
SEE THAT  
There does not any  
One VAPORRATÉ

(drawn figures)

(drawn figures)

MISTERIOUS  
Road all fast

Hall Letters 60. Apr. 16, 1847; D.C. in Albany to Sarah and Lucy in New Haven.

Sister Sarah & Lucy

I have today made an engagement to travel with Dr. Spalding in Kendall's Band. I get \$5 per month more than any other man in the band except Kendall. It is a smashing band and would site me every way perfectly if only Rhodolphus was with us. By the way I have not rec'd any letter from him by the way of New Haven yet tell him that the colone & Nutmeg girls have all gon except Miss W. they have had a D--l of a time here before they went.

I saw Mr. Cunningham's folks in N.Y., they spoke about going to N. Hampshire. I told them you would write to them & c so you can give them an invitation if you see fit. They would like very much to go I think. Mr. Fitch said he was much obliged when I delivered your message of old Spect's presume would send his in return if he knew I was writing.

The North American Circus opens here on Monday next. Leaves town the last of the week. I wish you would write so that I can get it before leaving.

Yours in haste     D.C. Hall



Hall Letters 60.5. Apr. 19, 1847; Lucy and Sarah in New Haven to D.C. in Albany (on the back of Rhodolph's letter to D.C. of April 8, 1847)

Dear Brother,

I have just rec'd yours of 16th inst. We have been waiting very impatiently to hear from you--are glad you succeeded so well. We rec'd R's letter the Wednesday after you left & should have sent it on before but did not know where to direct. You see he is outrageous. But is however in good spirits.

We are as usual in good health & spirits. This week closes our tour of boarding at a boarding house. I have made arrangements with Mr. D's so we can go there & have a room for 50 cts per week--we shall try it a while I think. Old Mr. Day wants us to take a room of him or board either--it would be best to board there as it is in College St.--but it will not do at present. There is nothing new here under the sun. Now I hope you will let us hear from you often very often & not delay so long--if it is no more than 3 words--& I will do likewise. I shall write to Cunninghams in season for their readiness for departure--Gav old spect's again to Fitch & c. Now remember all I have said,  
Affectionately Lucy

D you did not tell us of your sail to New York after we left you. I thought you must have had a good teatering for the wind blowed hard all night. The fire we saw was a barn near the jail which frightened the prisoners very much. Wallace has a quarter ball next Friday eve. I would like to go if you were here to go with us. Hubbard has had a flare up with Miss Lumis reproved her for something at rehearsal in his ungentlemanly like way about singing some piece & it was in the presence of her intended & she resented it very much--she left for a few times & there has been a report that he was to be turned up--but I hear they have made up again. I think he will walk straight hereafter. Now be sure & write at the first stop. I am very sorry R. cannot be with you as he is so anxious & ever has been to go with a circus. You did not write how much you get but judging from what you said that the highest they gave was 50 per month you have 55 & that is doing pretty well. Now be careful of your health keep away from diseases that are numerous you have never had the measels remember success to you & much love,  
Sarah

Hall Letters 61. Apr. 21, 1847; Rhodolph in Roxbury to D.C. in Albany.

Dear Brother

We rec'd your letter last eve. I have succeeded in exploding after a long time your trunk, depositing in it your shirt, stockings, and cornet as you desired, which I considered as my own. As for the tuning slide, I will call for it, and if it is done, I will send it. I called at Wright's shop yesterday, he was not in. I saw J.S.K. yesterday for the first time since my arival, which was Monday eve. He appear glad to see me, has 17 now in the Band, want 1 more. A Bass player. If you could not come, Wished me to write to Downing, to learn if he could come or if he was not engaged, & c.

You may see him. Write to me, if he would like to come. We have a rehersal friday after-noon. K told me he had got the job at Dartmouth but it to be kept still. and was engaged for May training. Respects to Nancy Mrs. Dobie Mary and the rest. Mine to the folks of Washington Hall. William is a wating.

I am some wahat disappointed that I am not to go with you. But, I perseive you have reduced your terms as well as your Disposiation for both to travel together, or your idea of my not traveling without you went to misterious.

Respects to Fitch I saw his folks Saturday last. are well. and Disappointed that he does not write.

I wrote you in N. Haven on the reception of yours. expresing my feelings. &c. which you did not receive. write soon. Direct to Roxbury Rhodolph Hasty

Hall Letters 62. May 3, 1847; Rhodolph in Roxbury to Lucy and Sarah in New Haven.

Dear Sisters,

I have no excuses to make in particular, for not writing before, as you very well know letter writing is out of my line of business, But as it is a part of your Profession, I can not form any idea what your excuse is to be composed of.

Amid the all important subjects of excitement, ie. love, courtship, & marriage. War. Politics & Religion, the latter like Jonah having been swallowed in War, is experiencing a mighty clam, amid all the excitements I say I have frequently Divorsed my Soul and Body, long enough for the former to pay you a call. You have a Mineature of the Latter. My writing must serve as a Mineature of the Soul, until I see you as it is about as correct one as that of the Body. & c. & c. & c. & c.

The friends of Rox are expecting you to give them a call in June on your way to N.H. which is my principal object of writing. Mrs. Dobie, intends going home with you to Hanover I believe, Sister N. has not decided positive to go with you yet. thinks strong on the subject. they are quite comfortable.

When you come, do not forget to fetch my Violin, Trombone & whale bone Cane. Whether o no. And my over coat Cap & pumps shoes if you can conveniently.

I have thought I should make you a call on my way to N.H. every week almost until now. I may yet. Canot tell. I am now a Member of Boston Brigade Band. 2d to none but the Leader, J.K.K. yes y. re We go to Cambridge tomorow for some engagement. Are engaged for the Dartmouth Commensment last week in July. Can you Speak a good word for us to ole Yale?

I Directed a letter to D. while he was in N. Haven he did not get it. there was some of it to you. Perhaps it will interest you about 3 or 4 cts. worth, & c.

I may stop in Roxbury through the season if my business will allow and my Professorship proves agreeable & c. I would like to visit home with you, if I do not have business I shall try. I may take a notion to visit N-Haven on your return if it is so I can. The fare from Boston to Lyme is only \$4.25 now.

We have 18 member in our Band. They are all old chaps. the "Bigest at the little end" if they were dressed in gowns I should think they were in a state of -

William in unwell today with a verry bad cold, little Mary has a bad cold also. She is just like a young crow. Canot talk at all, yet. Sister N. says she canot write today as she has not concluded about going with you to N.H. thinks she will write to you in a week or so. Wants you to be sure and come this way & c. Folks all, send their respects. I shall not name them all over as I am in a hurry to go to town to rehearsal, & c. Marinda Brick & her Maam are at East Boston. Marinda has been verry sick with Bleeding at the Stomak. Did not expect she would live one day to another for some time. I have not heard from her of late & c. & c.

## Hall Letters

My health is comfortable as usual, not verry tough however. L. you must not let my dues run out in the Lodge. \$1.00 due 1st of April I believe, & c. & c. Please remember My Holiness to all the good folks of the parish

Yours Respectfully Rhodolphus Hall

Hasty Soup

It is for the Cambridge Coll. folks we play for today & tonight we have to play for a Serenade & c. I must be off for Cambridge Amen please write R.