

Letters 280-297 (November 27, 1863 to January 8, 1866)

Hall Letters 280. Nov. 27, 1863; Rhodolph in Boston to Sarah in [Baltimore].

Dear Sister

I do not think that I am owing you a scratch except of good will. of that, I now Manifest in Scratching. I have just returned from a visit to Frankford Pa. left Boston 10th ins. and arrived home Wednesday morning at 6 o'clock. I had a very pleasant time considering the awfull stormy weather, with a severe toothache the most of the time of absence. I have smoked myself most to death to ease them, so kept myself from raveing mad. Kate & I arrive in New Haven at 5 1/2 o'clock last Sunday morning, which was the first beautiful morning we had during our absence. Slepded on board the boat untill we got enough. and then took a walk to Brother Sam's sending our baggage by a wagon up town. found Sis Js folks all in bed at 7 1/2 oclock Sunday morn. I found brother Jeffers folks all well. Also brother Geisse & family. they have a splendid Boy 16 months old. very fat and healthy runs alone and is begining to talk a little. they are to have an other addition to their family in Dec. They were very glad to see us. We did not go to Baltimore, as I had an engagement to play for a Ball in Boston 26th. ins. I left Kate at New Haven. I left there at 3 o'clock P.M. Tuesday via New London & Worcester, arrived in B. at 6 o'clock Wednesday morning. found the folks all well at 33 Porter St. We played all night Wednesday night at Mt. Vernon Hall Boston got home at 1/4 to 7 o'clock in morning was in bed 1 3/4 hour, then had to play at the entrance of Barnum Aquarial Garden untill 8 o'clock in the evening with 30 mts to eat our oysters in at 12, and 2 hours from 5 untill 7 oclock to take our Thanksgiving Dinner in. I am stoping with D.C. during Kates absence. I play with the Cambridge Brass Band tomorrow (Sat. eve.) Business looks very dull here compared with Philadelphia.

I brought your black wool shall & hood. Photographs and an ambrotype of yourself and Ella. I shall send them to you the first oportunity if we do not get a chance come and bring them &c. as the Thanksgiving in Vermont is Dec. 4th we hope we may have an engagement up there somewhare.

Inclosed I will send another of your photographs, of which I have now 5 -- 4 beside this one. I sent one to you in Lucies letter some time since &c.

Please excuse haste write soon and acknowledge the receipt of this with love to Father & all the Friends, Fondly Yours Rhodolph

P.S. Jane spent Thanksgiving at East Boston. I have not seen her since my return. Nothing of exciting interest this evening from the war.

Hall Letters 280.5. Dec. 29, 1863; Rhodolph in Philadelphia to Sarah [?] in Baltimore.

Dear Sister,

I arrived here last Sat. P.M. for a short engagement to Play Solos for 9 days or so at \$50.00 per week & expences. I left the Friends all well at Boston last Friday. I have intended to visit Baltimore before returning, but the drift of Business I fear will prevent. I am visiting at Brother Geisse's at Frankford 4 miles out by horse cars &c. I expected Katie today but she has not yet arrived. Can you not come on and see me by Saturday. Call at Concert Hall for me or leave a note for me. Concert on Friday & Saturday at 3 P.M. also at 8 every evening. Please write to me on receipt of this, direct to Concert Hall, Chestnut St., Phila. care of Blaisdell Brother Swiss Bell Ringers and oblige. If you do not come I may come to B. via night train on Saturday eve.

[Blaisdell Brothers Swiss Bell Ringers programme enclosed]

Hall Letters 281. Feb. 1, 1864; Rhodolph in Ogdensburg, N.Y. to Lucy in New Haven.

Dear Sister,

I have but a moment before leaving for Canada West. I am uncertain as to my debtedness to you in the Letter line, however not feeling at all ceremonious I scribe, not having heard from you in a long time. I have not fealt at any time any uneasiness as to the safe keeping of that Due bill, knowing, by experience your trustworthy Honor. You will see by small bill or Programie that I am Traveling again. I left Boston Dec. 25th for Philadelphia after a Pleasant engagement with the Renowned Lady Violinist "Camelia Urso" (at \$10.00 per night & expences) to play two Solos viz. "Cornet Echo" & Clarinet. I rec'd \$46.00 for the 1st week in Philadelphia with the Bell Ringers. I went to Baltimore by late train one Sat. eve. Jan. 2nd. Was Froze in the Ice at Haver de Grace attempting to cross the Susquehanah River, arrived at the Mansion House Baltimore at 8 o'clock P.M. on Sunday night. Found Robert & Sarah very Nicely & Fleshey. Took a hack in the Monday morning early for the Cars. Calling 10 mts. on Brother Morris and Proceeded to Philadelphia & Frankford, (where I had left Kt.) and played 2 nights at Frankford. took a toure through Jersey and up the Hudson to Albany, Rome, Oneida, Amsterdam, Wattertown, to this place. I have no time now to particularise. I am with a nice set of People. give a good entertainment, first class "White People." We shall be from 2 to 4 weeks in Canada. return via Hamilton C.W. and Buffalo, unless we go to Quebeck.

Please keep the bill untill I write you again. I think should you write me at Buffalo in about two weeks from this date I shall get it. I want to hear from you very much.

Katie is with me, says you owe her "one." She says she should like much to hear from you &c. Joins me in Love to you & all the Friends. Please excuse Greate Hast. believe me ever yours Truly, Rhodolph Hall

Hall Letters 282. Mar. 19, 1864; D.C. in White River Junction to Sarah in Baltimore.

My Dear Sister,

I rec'd your letter of 29th ult. in due course of mail and now improve this opportunity to answer &c. having to wate for the train to go to our old home in Lyme. We played at this place for the Annual Ball and the others of the Band have returned to Boston. About the Fair in your place Edna is getting up something for to send you and will write if she has not already. I would send an Instrument if I could afford, but the amount of it is I am too poor, but will do something for Ednas box. About the Bands coming, It is no kind of use to think for one minute as my business is so driving that it will not allow me to go with the Band around here at home so much as I want to do, and I have got to attend to it very closely if I don't I shall soon find trouble from my creditors and the next thing is to shut up shop.

I suppose you hear from R. often and know all that I can tell. He is soon to go to California, is engaged for \$50. per week and all expences. Pretty good.

Edna is engaged to sing at Dr. Huntingtons \$400 a year and vacation and extra for Funerals &c. [Sweatser] has gone to N.Y. City. He has made up his Quire from Boston and the committe came on to hire them and offered Edna (to sing soprano) \$700. It was no use for I couldn't see the way to pull up and go myself; or spare her either, so told the Com. not to talk of it and sent them off.

Little Dasie is quite unwell and I have some fears of loosing her some times, as she is so very delicate. The Babe "Norma" or "Kitty" as they call her, She is as good as Daisey ever was, and a great deal more action, and as handsome as a doll. I suppose they are all well at Lyme if there is anything new or strange I will drop you a line from there as I shall stop over Sunday.

My work in the shop is now very good and driving just now, and makes it awful hard for me to do what I have in Band, and all the care of the shop &c. &c. &c. My best regard for Robert, tell him if he is making more money than he knows what to do with I will let him have a note which I have for some of it as it would come very handy as I am trying to pay up R. the notes which I took of him for the one that I [notor] &c. Please write often and believe me as ever. Your Brother D. C. Hall

Hall Letters 283. Apr. 15, 1864; D.C. in Boston to Sarah in Baltimore.

Dear Sister Sarah

Enclosed you will please find express receipt for the box containing some things for the Fair which Edna has selected and sent to you. She will write you all about them and tell you all the news &c. Yours in haste. D.C. Hall [also enclosed is a price list of D.C. Hall instruments]

Hall Letters 284. May 8, 1864; Rhodolph in Montrose Pa. to Lucy in New Haven.

Dear Sister

I had a eargent invitation to go a fishing today, but promised an elder-ly gentleman, to accompany him to church as he so politely invited me last evening. So he called for me today at 11 o'clock A.M. and I went with him to the Presbyterian a very nice new church where he owns a slip. he is a man who has disposed of his farm & place of business, having buried his wife, and not having any family. said he was quite lonely. he is about retiring to a traveling life. formerly of Boston where he now has a sister living, he is about sixty of age &c. The text was 2nd Corintheons 21st chapter I think. where it says an honest man is the noblist work of God. his works at the present crisis are getting very scarce. you know, he handled it quite well, making out more honest in their own estimation than others or the eyes of God. &c.

I have no news of interest to tell you except that I shall be with you next Sunday without doubt. as we shall play only a part of the coming week, are to lay by for a week or two. it will seem odd to me, as I have had but 2 week day nights since, long before I left Boston in December. Have I not been fortunate in health & business?

We may go to California last of May but I think it doubtfull. I would come and make you a "visitation". were it not for the rent and disposal of my Domestic implements. I think I can live a little easy this summer, with a clear concience, as soon as I make proper arrangements. &c. I rec'd Katies letter last Saturday night (week ago last night) at Wilkesbarre. her last, tell her Came to hand last evening after concert, forwarded from Pittston to this place (Montrose). This is also a county seat of about 1500 inhabitants with a fine high school, which closed the day before we arrived. it is pleasantly situated on a high ridge or hills a little broken just enough to make it romantic. neat building, wood, principally. not lighted by gass, as are the most of places in this coal abounding reigion. from Wilkesbarre we went to Scranton 2 nights. At Scranton I visited the founderies where the pigg iron is made from the ore. Also the Rooling mills & forges where rought iron is made from the pig or cast iron into rought iron. And saw the long rail road rails squirt out through the roolers, like the old way of making saucages befor linking them &c. one long rail to a minute, all sawed off ready to go off on the cars while they are very red hot. On my arrival at Scranton who should I see but Harace Carr as I was going from Depot to hotel. he stoped at the same hotel that we did, and we had a nice visit. He went with me to the iron works. and attended our concert P.M. & two evenings -- from Scranton we went to Pittston one night, where we had an audience of about 600 people who were delighted. and urged us to stay another night but were obliged to follow up our advertiser. proceded from Pittston to Funkhannock by open waggon two horses over 22 miles of the d---nst rough road you ever went "any where" on. Oh! didn't the sun make us blush. Nearly blistered our faces. walked about half the way, the horses walked about all the way, &c. Funkhannock is a sort of Onehorsetown. The only good quality it has, is, they are free of Negros, none in the town. From there we came to Montrose last Friday, by stage another 22 miles. I thought it lucky that Kate was not along. had two good evening concerts, but small audiences of small folks in the P.M. Tomorow morning we leave for Susquehannah near Great Bend on the Erie R.R. We have to ride 10 miles in stage to the Lacawana rail road thence by cars through Binghampton, the l0 miles staging is the

worst traveling imaginable so they say. We shall be at Susquhannah one night (Monday). Tuesday at Honesdale do not know but two nights at Honesdale, and after that we do not know whether we shall play longer or not. I can safely say, however, that I shall Ghost you, before Saturday night. &c.

Please tell Katie in place of the dollar, this week I will bring her a "rool to change" by Sat. night, &c.

With love to all the friends. Hoping to find you all in Lively health, soon, I am untill then, counting the days with anxiety. Tell my "Rib" not to waste her marow, untill I come. Fondly & truly as ever, your Brother, Rhodolph.

Hall Letters 285. May 19, 1864; Rhodolph in Boston to Lucy in New Haven.

Dear Sister & Brother

Untill now have I realized a long and fearfull seperation from all those that bind me to Earth, or make life agreable. I have not time to extemporise. Permit me to say. we sail for California Monday May 23rd at 12 o'clock P.M. from N.Y. You will say, why wont you come and say goodby, because I can not possibly. gladly would I, knowing the possibility of never seeing you more on Earth. But I shall have many things to leave undone, do my best here, untill Sunday P.M. We shall pass through New Haven Sunday night leaving Boston about 5 P.M. I hope and believe you will, some of you be at the Depot to let me take a fond look and hear the heart spoken words of God bless you. My eyes "make watter" as I write it.

Business I may have checks for two pieces of Baggage to leave with you, Lucie containing some of my flannels, which I know you will preserve for me, (untill I return) or to my memory. I shall store the most of my things here. Katie wishes you to bring to the Depot, her thin dress, which hangs in your closet.

We had a nice visit at New London, left there Tuesday night, boat train, 1 o'clock, arrived here Thursday 6 1/2 A.M. I have not time to write more now, will write you from Cala. God willing. Katie joins me in Love to all our Dear Friends. With a hope that our heavy hearts, may again be made light, after a few short months. I am as ever affectionately Your Brother Rhodolph Hall.

P.S. When I arrived here found our Agent wating to notify me to sail on Monday 23rd ins. I was a little nervous over it but took nerve steadier and am quite reconsiled now R. Excuse my childlike eyes, they have "wet this sheet".

Hall Letters 286. June 3, 1864; Kate in Aspenwall, New Granada, South America to Lucy in New Haven.

My Dear Lucie

I know that I am not owing you a letter but think that fact will make no difference in one being acceptable so here goes for chat of some kind with you. I cannot tell you how bitterly disappointed we were at not seeing your face at the Cars when we passed through your city but of course you have a good reason for not being there. We did not get into New York until six oclock Monday morning and you may well believe that we were tired. We sailed at 12 M. precisely and had a splendid passage thus far but I will leave the discriptive parts for Rhodolph as he saw all there was to be seen, as for me I was laid up sick all the way. I managed to crawl to the dining table once and that lasted me for the whole of the trip. We have 700 passengers and I think one hundred babys which made it decidedly lively for they all managed to cry together every five minutes both day and night the open five they devoted to quarelling. Oh I enjoyed it hugely. We arrived here last evening about six oclock. I only wish that I could give you a description of the place but that is impossible it would require the pen of Hogarth to do it justice suffice it say that a more God forsaken hole a white person never came to. You know they are all free Negros here and such a dirty filthy wicked set you can have no idea of. Girls from 15 to 20 walking the back streets without a sag of clothing. They are filthy past discription. We are blessed with vermin of every description and as for roaches I have them perform a dress parade on my toilet table every few minutes. the company are all well, give a concert to night. the thermometer has been I should judge about three thousand in the shade to day so you may try and imagine the sweet perfume of the concert room. I wish you could hear the Babel of noises that I hear as I write. opposite my room on the other side of the street is a fandango in ful operation some where in vicinity is a free fight and their curses and screams are most frightful to hear mixed with that sound, the sound of violin drum tamberine dogs barking children crying and last but not least a parrot screaming worse oaths in english than an old sailor could. Now there has a party of Niggers commenced singing in spanish, the most unearhtly howling as the torch lights fall upon their faces with their arms swinging out and their bodys keeping time they look like devils incarnate, truly Lucie I should be a raving maniac were I obliged to remain here a month but thank God we leave here tomorrow morning for Panama but what awaits us there the Lord only knows and he wont tell. Well Lucie how are you all New Haven and how does my Blue eyes and curley hair get along. Lively I hope. I hope you will write me a long letter to San Francisco giving me all the particulars. Rhodolph is going to write some so I will leave the rest for him to say. My love to both of the children tell them I am coming back some of these days. So they had better remember me. my love to Mrs. Jeffers and all the family Aunt Lydia and daughter and all friends saying nothing of the share you must keep for yourself. How is Polly and Baby. Have you decided about the country. I hope you will enjoy it. I wish I could send the children some of the fruit we get here it is delicious. be brave and write. Truly yours Katie

1 o'clock Saturday Morning June 4th. It is now raining in torents. it rains here every 30 minutes. it is very hot & sultry here. like the hottest dog day you ever saw when there was no air stiring. this is the sample of the climiate here every thing looks beautiful in the way of foliage here. Yours truly Rholdolph.

Hall Letters 287. June 3, 1864; Rhodolph in Aspinwall, New Granada, South America to Lucy and Friends in New Haven.

Dear Sister & Friends,

After passing New-Haven the night of May 22d our Sleeping Car broke down & we did not arrive at New-York untill 6 o'clock. Breakfast at the Gerard House, got tickets and went on board the U.S. Mail Steam Ship "Illinois" & Sailed at 12 o'clock M. sharp. Had fine weather with frequent showers for the week. Saw nothing of interest except numerous paupus. Some few other vessels. The "northern Light" Steam Ship sailed at the same hour for the same port. She is on the old line, ours was the oposition. On Sunday morning we passed Bahamia Island, One of which was the first discovered by Columbus. His Heart is preserved in a Glass case in one of the Churches in Havana Cuba in the same Church are his bones (what remain of them &c.) Had Church services on the uper deck of our ship on Sunday and during the day saw saw Millions of Little Flying Fish. They look like a piece of Polished Silver in the Sun, as they Fly along over the watter. Sometimes fly ten roods or more without going in. On Monday we came in view of the Isle of Cuba, came in the Caribean Sea. It was a beautiful day, and had it not been for the Trade Winds, we should have roasted. We came in sight of the Island of Hati or San Domingo. Her Mountains presesnted a beautifull Landscape appearance as did Cuba Mountains also. We were to fare to the East of Jamaca to get a view of her. We saw but one small Island after leaving sight of San Domingo both of which were to the East of us. Domingo or Hati was about 10 to 15 miles distant from us, but we passed within 1/2 a mile of Cuba &c. &c. We arrived in this low swampy village at 6 o'clock P.M. June 2d. There are from 30 to 40 houses here. The most business done here is the Landing of Passengers to & from Calla. where they have to wait for sailing.

Let any Abolitionist stop one night here & see the conduct of the Negros (who are all free here) and I think he would say the black Demonds deserve servitude for they act ten times worse then any I ever saw. Worse at night then in day time.

We saw a big black Negro go along the street pissing with a Wench on each side not half dressed, in day light to. Our concert is over. It is now past 12 o'clock night, and the Darkies are having the D-d powow you ever heard or thought of just oposite side the street. One has been Stabed this evening, & I would not care if a half dozen more were, for they kept us awake till 3 o'clock last night & are in fair way to tonight, &c. Landlord tells us if they get \$2.00 they do no more work untill they drink & spree it away, then watch the chances to rob or Steal more. Wont work untill starvation obliges them to &c.

We start at 6 o'clock tomorow morning by cars for Panama over 40 miles of Rail Road across the Isthmus, which has cost a mans life to every inch to build it. Bananas are plenty, and delicious here. So are Goavas & other Fruits.

We write from because the Captain of the Steamer we came on, very kindly offered to take Letters to New-York and Mail for us, as he returns as soon as the Steamer get to Panama to take us up to San-Francisco. It is expected now every day. We shall hear by Telegraph as soon as she arrives. We shall Play tomorow night (Saturday) at Panama, also Sunday night, as it takes her 2 days to Coal up there. The Steamer we came on is a fine large Ship, burns from 50 to 60 tons of coal every 24 hours, runs from 180 to 200

miles per 24 hours, &c. Please write on Receipt of this, Direct to San-Francisco Cala.
Love to all Rhodolph

1 o'clock Sat. morning June 4th. Please get some Camphor gum and take good care of
our woolens and I will make all right when we meet, &c. Untill then, as ever. R.

Hall Letters 289. Oct. 12, 1864; Rhodolph in San Francisco to Lucy in New Haven.

Dear Sis Lucie

I must say, I did hope to answer your favor, long ago, but old Procrastination is a D-l of a thief, you know. I do not propose to make a page of excuses. But this is the D-d'st Country to travel in, you ever saw, Rough while moving over it, but one has twice the inclination to sleep, when the chance presents itself, then in any Country I've seen.

Your letter was forwarded to me at Downeville, (some six weeks since), while I was traveling among the mountains. You will see we are now in San-Francisco, are taking 10 days rest. We returned from "Nevada Territory" about a week since. There where we concerted only 10 or 12 days, there being but a few Cities or villeges, namely "Virginia City" the largest, numbers 15000 inhabitants, settled only 4 years since, it is way up on the Side of one of the Sierra Nevada Mountains, 8000 feet above the level of the sea, &c. so high that the air is Highly Rarified, and it is very hard to make Ones breath do them any good. hard playing a Wind instrument there, and we were troubled with Nose bleeding while there, first time that I have been troubled that way for a long time. The watter at Virginia City is also very bad, so impregnated with Alcholie from the exces of Mineral, &c. There are here the richest Silver mines in the known world, with some gold with it, &c. which has been the reason of locating a city so far up, on so desolate a Mountain for there is not a tree to be seen, as far as the Eye can see, nothing but a small "sage brush" so called, which only grows scatering in little bunches as large as a Bushel Basket 10 to 15 feet apart, &c. the Ground is of a Brownish Red, like mountains of so much Ashes, with more or less Stone & Gravel which have the porus appearance of Lava of a Volcanic appearance, &c.

We were 5 days in traveling from Sacramento City to Virginia City, and did not give Concerts on the way as it is not peopled enough yet. There is a new Stage road finished this summer 60 miles of the way, which is Capital road Considering the Mountains which it Zig Zags around and up, to discribe which, my discriptive faculties are not "Adqueduct" [adequate] for the occasion, &c. Will tell you of them when I see you, if We are so favored as to ever see home again. Oh! Sis, you little imagine the long long distance betwene us. And how much I dread the passage by Ocean through the Tropics. And the D-d Indians are so troublesome, I do hope the Government will Exterminate the Cusses.

We also visited, while at Nevada Territory the following places with our Concerts viz. "Gold Hill" "Dayton" "Woshoe City" "Carson City" & "Silver City". at Carson City is the Capital of the to be, State of Nevada there visited the State prison and Hot Springs which join the Prison at which are nice bath houses, where they use the Hot water from old "Nator's Tea kettle" &c. We passed from "Silver City" through Virginia City on our return from the Territory. I there mailed a letter to D.C. which was the last I have sent home. On my return here, finding no letters, I began to think, Dam. But yesterday I rec'd a letter from D.C. Mailed Boston Aug. 3d. There has been no Over land Mails since the Indian depridations untill quite lately, within 10 days. I had sent \$3000. of 7 3/10 Bonds U.S. to the Department at Washington D.C. to be Converted to 6 per Ct. 20 year Bonds about the time the Indian troubles, and many lost their Bonds who sent about that time. & I have been in hot Watter, untill last Saturday I heard by a

Notification from the Treasury department, that mine had arrived safe, &c. &c. So I am easier now &c.

Last night there was quite a turn out of the McLenan party on torch light procession. I refused \$5. In Gold to turn out with the Band here. I am engaged to play at Stockton Saturday night for some Political Meeting. I am to have \$25. (in Gold) and all expences, also a Levee on Monday evening at Stockton \$10.

I have Deposited in the Bank of Cal. \$400. in Gold for the purpos of paying our Fare home, at any time we shall feel able to Stand the hardship, &c. I have also Purchased \$400. government Bonds since being here, which pay me now 6 per ct. interest semiannually. Not bad for a New-Hampshire Minstrell, for 12 weeks Work. We are to make one more trip among the Mountains this Fall. Commense next Wednesday, which I very much dread, as the Hills are so hard to clime, & the Hotells so awfull poor. Many of them of Logs rough boards no latches on the doors. rool a Rocks against the Doors in hundreds of instances to keep it shut, in place of a Latch, &c. I have seen Hotells furnished with Bibles East, but in the absence of Bibles here, We are reminded of our Savior by the Rocks against the Doors. We have slept in these Modern Sepulchers many a night, with our Revolvers for a "Testament" under our pillows.

I can think of nothing more of interest, except Katie is sitting by side of me, fixing her Alipacka Dress, she got some Grees or "Ship" Slush on it coming out. She is singing that Dam Song --"Din not care how black I be." etc.

She wishes to have me say to you Laziness is flourishing Disease here, that she should like to sit down to one of your good "Biled Dinners" &c. All I have to Say for myself is, take a "Jurisprudence" in the shape of a "good-Sense-Stagerer" of Swhiskey to our health and successfull return in another Summer if not before, &c. Katie says, "tell her I will write to her soon".

Please do not delay answering this, direct to San-Francisco, Cal. as we think of going to Oregon in a few weeks. With much love to all Friends God bless you, Rhodolph

P.S. Katie wishes me to send you a strip of her silk such as her new Dress with a Coat to it. which she got since she came, (recently). It is a beauty, &c. with a new \$20 Bonnet. White Straw purple elaborate trimming.

With all of our Sickness, and ill luck getting here, I manage to keep my head out of the Mud. I have earned some money extra by writing for Brass Bands here. (I have not Gambled much though some Musicians here have Won at "Faro" \$3000). in one night, &c. &c.

I wrote to Sister Sarah about July 22d our birthday but, as yet hear nothing from her. If you should be, like me, so far from home, even in prosperity you will know better how good it seems to be remembered even by a Letter, &c. Dont think I am homesic, Oh no. I only dread the Sea. &c. Fondly & Truly Rhodolph Mails close early for the Steamer--in the morning.

Hall Letters 289.5. May 22, 1864 - Nov. 13, 1865; Rhodolph's California Trip Itinerary.

Itinerary of Rhodolph on his California Trip

1864

May 22 (Sun) - thru New Haven from Roxbury (?)
May 23 (Mon) - New York; sailed 12 noon on steamer Illinois
May 29 (?) Sun. - passed Bahama Islands
May 30 (Mon.) - Isle of Cuba
June 2 (Thur) (Letter) - Arrived New Granada 6 p.m.
June 3 (Fri.) - Still in New Granada
June 4 (Sat.) - Left for Panama over 40 mile R.R.
June 4-6 - Panama - Concert program
July 22 - Letter to Sarah - presumably from San Francisco
Sept. 1 - Downieville - Letter received from Lucy forwarded here
Sept 19-21 - Sacramento
Sept 24-26 - Virginia City, Oregon
- Carson City
- Washoe
10 or 12 days - Dayton
- Gold Hill
- Silver City
- Virginia City “
Oct. 4-6 - Sacramento
about Oct. 5 - San Francisco “a week [?]”
Oct. 12 - San Francisco
Oct. 15 - Stockton
Oct. 17 - Stockton
Nov. 12-13 - Somewhere, not in S.F.

1865

Jan. 16 (Mon) and for weeks - Portland, Oregon
March 18 (Sat.) - started from S. Fran.
April 15 - Placerville - day Lincoln's Eulogy
May 18 (Thurs) - Moore's Flat
May 19 (Fri) - Grass Valley
May 20 (Sat.) - Smashville [?]
May 22 (Tues.) - Marysville
May 26 - Red Bluff
May 28 - Horsetown
May 29 (Tues.) - Shasta
July 24
- Cornallis, Oregon
- Walla Walla
- Yreka, Siskiyou Co. Cal.
Oct. 9 - Sonora, Cal.
Oct. 14
- Stockton
- Placerville

Oct. 28 - San Francisco
Oct. 29 - San Francisco
Nov. 3 - Santa Cruz
Nov. 4 - Santa Cruz
Nov. 6 - New Almaden
Nov. 13 - Sailed?

Letters 290. Nov. 13, 1864; Kate in San Francisco to Lucy in New Haven.

My dear Lucie

I wish I might exchange pen and paper for a seat in your comfortable little sitting room, this night. I think my "ideas" would drop from my tongue much easier and faster than from my pen. I intended answering your highly prized and warmly welcomed letter a long time ago, and the only reason that I can give for not doing it, is the strange effect of the climate. I have found it impossible to concentrate my mind upon any one thing for fifteen minutes at a time. Rhodolph, and in fact every body, is affected the same way. It gives one a wild crazy feeling, and in truth there are, I think more insane people in this country than any other -- everyday we read of three and four cases. R. visited the Asylum when in Stockton says it is filled. I am not the least bit in love with this country -- and shall be very thankful when I can return home again. as for the people I abominate them. they exhaust life to quickly. every one seems to live at a 2:27 gait! and faster, if possible. As for the climate of this City, it is abominable beyond discription. the winds are really terrible, filling your eyes, nose, and mouth, (providing you open the latter) with dirt and sand, at the same time any rag of clothing that you have on, is making frantic endeavors to turn into an umbrella and cover your head, of course leaving "every thing else" exposed, and then, to "cap the climax", we are liable at any time to receive a shaking up, or a shaking down, by an Earthquake. I have experienced two really awful ones. You can form no idea, what a sensation it gives one, to be in a large house and see it, and all its contents, shaking and quivering like a great form of Jelly, and not know but that you and the house "may go down" and be "hidden from mortal view forever" -- Oh! no! I do not think it all pleasant-- As for fruits! there is a superabundance of it, of all kinds, you see so much that it sickens you -- with the exception of grapes we seldom ever taste it. pleasant walks, or rides, there are none-- Grass and shade are things that you must call on your imagination for, no person will ever know what "invisible green" means untill they come here and see the trees -- it is nothing but sand! hills of sand, streets of sand! yes mountains of sand! Rhodolph will give you some great discriptions when he returns. I have not traveled with them at all the truth is I am not strong enough that last sickness of mine came very near finishing this childs, "earthly career" -- and now my wonderment is how shall I ever get back again. I have the most intense horror of the Water -- yet do not feel like gratifying those tawny wretches, the Indians with my scalp, which they most assuredly would have, did we return by the overland route. So you may make up mind, if you ever see this child alive, you will see her in the form of a living skeleton. I had a letter from Rhodolph yesterday--he wrote in good spirits and he says regaining his health, he has been troubled again with the kidney complaint -- which has worried us both greatly, for what would become of us if his health gave out in this country. We are in hopes to return by next Febrary God willing-- we would have been on our way now, could he have gotten released from his engagement. the Company have done wonderfully well, while traveling -- every thing either in the shape of business or amusements is fearfully dull here -- provisions, clothing and everything else, is nearly double in gold here -- We can get the same at home in scrip or greenbacks, for the same price we have to pay in Gold or Silver. I think it rather strange, that people who are such firm supporters of President Lincoln and the Union, will not recognise the currency -- "consistency thou art a Jewel" the highest that green backs have been since we came, has been 52 cent on the dollar, buying not selling. Lucie I wish you could see the stile of dressing here --

you would be astonished -- one woman comes along with a muslin dress lace shawl and everything light and summery, while right back of her comes one with a heavy silk or poplin and wolen cloak or shawl and thick furs -- muff and cape, and as for colours, every one in the rainbow (and some that are not) are all worn at one time. I met a woman this morning dressed in a handsome drab silk skirt trimmed with broad folds of cherry and blue velvet and a row of gilt bell buttons above each fold -- woollen cloak of large plaid, black and magenta -- black velvet water fall hat, with trimmings of black and white bugles, an immense bouquet of flowers and a large white feather, veil embroidered with straw coloured silk, gloves of a lemon shade and brown silk parassol -- what would new Haven say to that stile of dress, I wonder. I should have liked to have taken her up just as she was, and set her down on Lyme plain she would be a dainty thing for some of the old women to tear to pieces. Do write often, we long greatly for some news from home, with love to all. God Bless you. Truly yours Kate C. Hall

Hall Letters 291. May 29, 1865; Rhodolph in Shasta, California to Lucy in New Haven.

Very Dear Sister & Friends

I am unfit, in spirits to write you at this moment, but having delayed so doing, from day to day, hoping to feel better, I swere I wont any longer. You will wonder the Cause of my low spirits--well the fact is this, one week last Thursday we came very near being burned up alive. The Hotel where we were asleep, at Moors Flat Cal. took fire at 2 1/2 o'clock night. The Landlord and I had taken a "Knight Cap". at 1 o'clock & went to bed, had, of Course got sound asleep,-- when thank Heaven & all dear on earth the screams of a woman living oposite side the street awoke me. She came rushing into the house, breaking through doors where her strength was sufficient, and, soon roused other help. It was with difficulty that I woke my partner Mr. Hayward, to Conciousness, though he roomed with me. It may seem a fib to you, when I tell you, this.-- 3 minutes from the time I woke from a sound sleep, the Fire rushed into our room. You must know the houses here are nearly all built of thin strips of Board. (which is dry pich Pine) and then in place of Plaster, a thin Cotton Cloth separates one room from the other. So you can imagine, how quick the Fire would Spread, with a little wind to help it. It was like the burning of a Newspaper. In trying to get my pants on, I split what little loos chenge I had, among which was my luckey 1/2 cent Pocket piece which I have Caried for more then 10 years, had no time to pick it up.

The Landlords 2 little Girls 6 & 8 years old, were saved by draging them from their bed by the Hair of their head, driven into the street in their night Clothes only. I worked terrible hard to help Landlord save a little Clothing, got sweety, and it rained hard, and as I had nothing but Shirt & Pants on, got my Feet wet took Cold, have not been well since, though I have had to keep mooving. All the Buildings on that side of the street, some 10 or more burned in an hour, to the ground and had it not rained, the holl town would have gone. Our Team was at a Stable across the street. I rushed to it, broke open the stable & run out our Cariatall & Put my Box of Instruments into it & Satchell and run the Cariatage up street away from the fire, & put Harnesses on the Horses, so in Case the Fire Crossed the St. we would save our Conveyance, &c.

We are now on our way to Oregon. (over land) This Shasta is the County seat of Shasta Co. 40 miles north of Red-Bluff. The Sacramento River is navigable up to Red Bluff in Summer, & higher in Winter.

We are traveling by our own Conveyance, which is a Pair of nice Horses and 4 seated Barouche or Carieall. Our agent has a one horse Bugey. We ie Mr. Hayward & Myself paid \$125.00 for the two teams Complete, &c. The people all tell us they are the Best Teams, finest rigout, ever Traveled with any Concert Co. or Show in California, &c.

We are doing very well, & have been since we started 9 weeks ago last Sat. The Bell Ringers are north of us, on their way to Idaho. We shall only go through Oregon to Walla Walla, then take a Back track ove this same route, as all say we can do even better a second time in the same town, as we are giving the best Satisfaction. The Californians are great for Dancing, & our Promanade Ball Pleases them better than any thing they ever had, as they are not able to get good Music for Dancing, here in the Country.

We think that we shall get back to San Francisco in time to Sail for New-York about the middle of October. We shall be there however before that time & make a trip through the Southern part of Cal. to Santa Cruz, Los Angeles, &c. We are determined to be in New England God willing, next Thanksgiving. Last Sat. night we played at Red Bluff where resides Mrs. John Brown, Wife of the well known Martyr. We sent her Complimentaries but she did not come.

Now Dear Lucie, I am not in spirits to give you any of our Comical senes, though they many & frequent. This country is much more lovely this season than last, having been blessed with rain. There are now oceans of Roses, and I occasionally get a Boquet sent me from the hands of Married Ladies (only think of it.) This morning the Landlord at Horsetown where we gave a Concert last night (Sunday) took me into his garden and gave me the first feast of ripe Cheries, off the Trees. They are jest now getting ripe. There is going to be Fruit in abundance here this season. This is a greate Country for Grapes & there will Tons of them.

I rec'd your kind Letter the day of the Eulogy of President Lincoln. We were at Placerville Placer co. Cal. We postponed our Concert that night, joined in Procession, had the finest Team in procession, draped with Crape. Mr. Hayward sang a Sacred Song at the services. "Flee as a bird to the mountains." Hayward is a nice young man about 30 years old, weighs only 130 lbs. &c.

Enclosed I sent you his photograph, with the Shadow of your far off fast fading Brother Rhodolph.-- Oh! how I want to see you all.

You must know I never have been so long from home at any one time before. It might seem that I ought to be Weaned from home by this time but, with swollen Nostrils the dew is this moment trickling from my Eyes to the very end of my Probosis, here you have its proof.-----

My photograph has been touched up with Idia ink, thickening the hair on the top of my head it may improve the Picture, but nothing can ever fetch it back to the old Skull again.

I should have said something before of Katie, but I have failed to get letters for nearly 2 weeks from her, & fear she is not well. Her Letter may have Miscaried, though no signs of her Miscariage yet. She is at San Francisco. I was expecting her to meet me at Marysville last Tuesday but have not herd the reason. I fear she is Sick, &c.

My Letter to Mary Daverson I directed to New London Con. did she get it? She that was Elizzie Durham is married to a Capt. Spencer & lives in San Francisco. Katie & She visit every day nearly. They are Methodist & very pious. &c.

Give my Love to the Children. tell them those paintings were very nice, and I could read their letters, tell them to write again. Katie would join in Love to you all were she here. but please show my Picture to all the Friends. You all so little know, or is it possible for you to comprehend the long dreary passage we are yet to undergo ere we are again permitted to hear the sweet voice of our Dear Friends and enjoy thier smiles and fond Hearts. Do not delay writing, not even a day.

If you write as soon as you receive this, I can get it at Yreka, Siskiyou County California as we shall be there on our return from Oregon in about seven weeks.

With best Love to all Friends, believe me as ever your true Friend & Brother. Rhodolph.
On receipt of this Direct to Yreka Siskiyou County California Care Hall & Hayward
Concert Troup.

Hall Letters 292.1W, Aug. 25, 1865; Sarah in Saratoga to ???

Last eve D.C. Benefit was a grand success in every way. The returns were not all in, but he told me this morn it would be \$125, one hundred & twenty five dollars and free from all expenses. . . . The Park was illuminated beautifully & the Band Pavillion is in the middle of the Lake with the reflection of the gass & Chinese lanterns on the banks & trees made a fairy-like scene or a Paradise. I cannot describe it you must come to see. . . .

Hall Letters 293. Oct. 9, 1865; Rhodolph in Sonora, California to Lucy in New Haven.

Dear Sis Lucie,

I have been oweing you a letter for a long time. (though you had not received my last, when you wrote). however, I have only a few moments, and nothing of interest to write you, except to tell you, We intend to "go down to the sea" again as the good book says of Merchants & others for gain, "Many shall go down" but few come up therefrom." We shall take the Chances, of coming up from the sea, again, as we wish, hope & pray, that we may meet our Loveing Friends once more. We shall sail per. Steamer "America" on the 13th of November, via, Nickeraugua.

N.B. We may be delayed in selling our Teams, and in such case, will leave San Francisco by the next Steamer 18th of November, via Panama. I send you the notice of the Steamers Sailing. We are all very Well, at present & doing a better business than any time of the Season, as Every one is willing to Come and bid us a Farewell, and express a regret of our leaving & invite, ah! urge us to Come again, &c. which I hope to do, when the Pacific R.R. gets through, or before. We have traveled 30 miles today through the dust, and a rough old road over the Country, never worked perfectly natural, except some parts where it was impossible to pass without some sorte of a bridge, &c. I am very tired and it is now Concert time.

Katie. (I had not forgotten.) She came all the way overland from Oregon. got much worn out with the journey. though her health was much improved by the trip. She is [lotting] on a huge old time at N. Haven with Old Friends this winter, relating Oregon insidents. She is at San Francisco now preparing for the passage home. May we be permitted to reach home is my only thought of worying. I do so dread the fearfull passage &c.

I may write to some of you again before Sailing, though I have but a moment now & then to write.

Give our best Love. I say Our (for I know Katie would join me were she here,) in Love to the Children, sister J. Nieces, Brother, all of our dear Friends.

I believe Katie received your last Letter containing the little drawing of the Children & their little Letters also. they were very amusing.

We did hope to take a Thanksgiving in New England, but will be Thankfull God Knows, if permited to take a Christmas there, &c. Do not believe by this that we are homesick, for I like the Country more & more as I become acquainted with it & the

People, but knowing I must, or so much wish to see my Friends, that the Passage will Haunt me, untill I get through it. &c.

Please excuse great haste, and brevity, I will do better some time I hope, From Your Devoted Brother Rhodolph the Rover.

P.S. Love to all the Friends. Feeling lively, in good spirits, Doing a good business &c. God bless you, In haste R.

Hall Letters 295. Nov. 4, 1865; Rhodolph in Santa Cruz California to Lucy New Haven.

Dear Sister,

I have but a moment, to scribe a line to you. I received your welcome favor, at Stockton, about 3 weeks since, was very glad to learn of your recovery from illness, and your happy situation at house-keeping. We should like very much to make you a call but don't know as we shall be permitted to enjoy that happiness. I passed the residence of an old Friend of yours, a few weeks since, near placerville, by the name of Miss Spaulding, an old Maid. I stoped but a few moments, as we were to play that evening, some 15 miles distant, and it had then got to be well along in the P.M. She treated liberally to Apples and nice Grapes. I spent last Sabath with Katie at San Francisco. She is in better health than she has been since we left Boston. we were taking a walk in the evening, and met Mr. Clapp & Wife & Daughter, Cousins. We called to see Horace Carr & Ellen, but they were not inn, but we saw them the night before, they are well and happy. Married life agrees with Ellen, I should think, as she is very fleshy & sollid, and are Comfortably at Houskeeping, &c. In your letter you asked me to tell you, the date, and steamer. We shall sail upon. Now I would gladly do so, but I am not able to say positive. I desire to return via Nicaragua route. the Steamer that route, leaves Nov. 13 in 9 days from today. We may, and intend to sail on the 13th ins. which, if successfull will land us in New York, first week in December.

Hall Letters 296. Nov. 7, 1865; Rhodolph in San Francisco to Sarah in Baltimore.

Dear Sis,

I did not have time at Santa Cruz to finish this, nor have I had time since. We gave our last Concert (in this country) Sunday evening 5th ins. We arrived in San Francisco last night at 9 1/2 o'clock from New Almaden (quick Silver Mines)-- having rode 70 miles from 5 1/2 o'clock yesterday morning, with our good horses. I am very tired today, but have jest returned from the Ticket Office of the Steamer (Nicaragua line.) We can have our Choice of state rooms being acquainted with the Officers, it being the Same Steamer we arrived here on. They want to take us very much. it is the oposition line. Connects on the Atlantic side with the Steamer "Colorado". leaves here next Monday 10 o'clock A.M.

We are going to price passage & accomodations via Old Line Panama and will write to Brother Morris as soon as we decide which route or as soon as we purchase our Tickets, &c. I shall send this and a note to Dr. Morris Per. Overland Mail expecting it will reach Baltimore a few days, or a week sooner then by the Steamer. One Steamer Old line

leaves 10th ins. we may come on her but prospects this moment that we sail 13th ins. per. oposition via Nicaragua, never having been that route. &c.

Katie wishes you to see her Brother to tell him, with her pure sisters, Love, she hopes to survive the terrible passage, and to meet him once more. Sensible of the goodness of God, we hope for a continuance of the same. and safe passage to our Dear Friends. give the Dr. my sincere regards also. to Brother Spear as well.

Wishing this to go in todays Mail, must Close. excuse all Faults untill we meet hereafter, bodily if permitted, spirtually, if not otherwise. With Love to all Friends. Truly as ever. God bless us. Rhodolph Hall.

Hall Letters 297. Jan. 8, 1866; Rhodolph in Boston to Lucy in New Haven.

Dear Sister,

Enclosed I send you a note which if you will do me the favor to compute the interest on, and return it here again without delay, that I may take it to Lyme with me the last of this week. you will add a little more to a allready burden of obligations &c. Please compute the interest up to the 17th ins. (remembering to deduct the \$18. endorsed on back) and tell me what the interest will be per day after the 17th (as I do not know how soon I shall be able to see Mr. Hough after that date).

I think jest as you do as regards the Old Homestead. but when you know all, I think the price of your younger brother, to say the least, as regards "Manhood" will rise in your imaginary market. D.C. returns from Lyme today. what he has done I am not yet able to say or vouch for, except he is to return laden with beds, Mothers things &c. What were left there. I am yet determind to own the old place more so than ever, if I have to buy of Newell or if I never live to eat a meal of victuals on it again. After D.C. left for Lyme via Exeter & Concord where he had business, I wrote a letter to Tom which would open his eyes perhaps. it would reach Lyme before D.C. That my journey from Cal. was to purchase the old place and if any Deed or disposal of it before settling some papers I held of Father, and my acquitance as regards what Father willed me.

I could not vouch for the validity of &c. D.C. wrote Newell while in a freek of temper. After sleeping a night or two, will come to his reason. "Mum" is the word untill I see you.

I am making every imaginary preperation for a one grand showey place for that Big Magnifico Lampo. when I get the old home &c. Shall have the Dining room Chimney taken out expressly for to make room for the lamp &c. Please don't let my wife Freez up & Bust for her cracks are big enough, and I have been trying for 15 years to find the botom of one of them &c. Love & compliments to all untill I come. I play at Ipswich Mass. tonight, Stoneham Tuesday eveng. go to Lyme last of week. God bless us, as usual, Rhodolph.

Letters 299-318 (March 8, 1866 to April 16, 1868)

Hall Letters 299. Mar. 8, 1866; Rhodolph in Boston to Lucy in New Haven.

Dear Sister,

We arrived at Phila. safely, spent a very pleasant Sabath with Celia at No. 14 North 17th St. I left Kate there Monday at 8 o'clock A.M. express train and arrived at Sister Jeffers N.H. at 6 1/2 o'clock in the evening found all well as usual. I left New Haven today at 11 o'clock A.M. have jest arrived here. find D.C. very well. Edna is down East singing for a concert I believe he said. I do not go out to his place on account of sending this letter and one to Katie &c.

Enclosed find a Card, which I wish you to Sew on to the webbing of the Braces or rests of those Bedsteds which I folded, up stairs. You may put a similar one on the Basket or bundle such as you send. Try your best to get them on the next steamer which sails next Friday 3 P.M. Put them on board fornoon if possible. @UX[Also find herein Five Dollars (\$5.00) which please acknowledge] receipt of as soon as you put things on board Steamer &c. and give me credit for what is left after paying for cartage or getting them on board &c. I want them to come next steamer so that I can take them with me to Lyme next week. &c.

With much love to yourself Miss Seville & the Dr. with compliments to Prof. I remain
your devoted Friend & Brother
Rhodolph.

P.S. riding in cars has tired me nearly to death. but will be well after a rest &c. God
bless you R.

Hall Letters 299.1W. March 29, 1866; Lucy in New Haven to Sarah in Baltimore.

My Dear Sis Sarah:

Your welcome letter came to hand this morning, and I hasten a reply. I sympathise deeply with you in your afflictions and hope you will come out all right. I write thus early to offer you a welcome home under our humble roof in this your trying time so long as you will, and hope you will accept the same, as such, in the name of my husband & myself.

I was afraid you would be troubled in the manner you have been there, and that they may give you still more cause for uneasiness if you remain there -- and therefore urge you to pack up and bring away what effects you have that may be of use to you. The School of which you speak, I fear will not prove sufficiently remunerative for profit, after what has transpired; and even if it does, it will and must be a great care and confinement. I think, if here, you might sing to profit in some of the churches; and if you wish to resort to Teaching, you could do it here to a better advantage than in Balt. I think. At any rate, I can better lend what little influence I have here, than there, and you will not only be in the midst of relatives (who feel more deeply for your interest) but of old friends. I read your letter to Mary this A.M. She feels for you and wants you to come on. Wanted me to tell you that if she had her house to herself, she would offer you a home.

Our friends are all well. M. & I made Aunt L. a surprise visit yesterday. Treated to (---) &c. Wish you could have been one of us. Come on & we will have another.

M. said she had a first rate time &c. When Annie Sarah left for School she told me to tell you she wanted you to come & see us. Sent her love. Louise had yours.

Jeffers had a letter from them saying Frank had a boy baby on one week today Thursday, weighs 9 1/2 lbs. Good for Frank!

Marinda wrote that N.W. & (??) visited them; that they had moved to their new home. Were "some homesick" -- In sight of the old home -- wanted to go t?????. You ask me some questions that I will better answer when I see you.

How do you manage to get along? Did Robt. leave you any money? I do not see with a \$300 rent how you can meet your demands, unless he did; or your boarders pay exceedingly well. Tell me all about it. Where is "Lara"! You do not mention her. Did she cause you any extra trouble after you wrote me, of her calling on you?

Rufus B. & Henry have gone to Jersey. R. for a Bos in a Machine Shop & H. for woodwork. Their families go May 1st. Louise B. has got No. 3 in Wooster School as a Teacher -- \$300 a year. S. & I helped her to a School. Hoping to hear from you soon. I Remain, Your aff. sis Lucy.

Hall Letters 300. Apr. 13, 1866; Rhodolph in Boston to Kate in Baltimore.

Dear Katie,

I intended to have written before this but have been so busy packing my things for Lyme and playing, that I could not. Have been making a large chest and packing it with things which I did not have time to do when I sent the goods and things I would not risk by freight &c. Should have gone to Lyme this morning but have an engagement Monday night. and the same place where the pay last Monday night did not hand over, but promised to next Monday so it was rather a consideration for me to be here and get any pay for last Monday nights playing &c. Wednesday night, play at Malden for a Church Fair. Mr Russell hires us and keeps us over night for it. Thursday P.M. we play for a Funeral at Fitchburg. I shall go to Lyme from Fitchburg on Friday. Since I wrote to you Mr. Wiley came and tried to persuade D.C. & myself to play for two concerts for him & his wife at Lynn and Gloucester. I told them I had set next Saturday to go to Baltimore, and unless you would consent to wait another week, I should have to go. She said she would write to you & make it satisfactory with you, when she sees you &c.

We are to have \$15 each, per night. The concerts are to be week from Tuesday & Friday. I want to go to Gloucester to get me a half bbl. of Mackerel, where I got the others &c. You know the \$30. for two nights concert is worth waiting a week for. and there will be some other business in that time likely. I may come by Cars. I wish you would write & tell me if there is a train on Sunday between New-York & Baltimore.

I called this evening to see Mrs. Bodge & gave her the Letter from Minnie. She was much delighted with it though she had a letter from her of a later date, was very glad to see me. Wants you to come & stop with her, when you come to Boston &c. they do not have any boarders. I have not heard from New Haven yet. I had a letter from Hannibal Chase, saying that oxen were very scarce but he would let me have one pair of his as he had two yoke, unless he should find a yoke for me, Also a cow. I have not yet rec'd an answer from Geisse. I should just like to know if he rec'd my letter. as I requested him to tell me rite off if he could not accomodate me. If he rec'd my letter, I never will forgive his silent contempts. He has never answered D.C.s letter yet either. Why wont Celia come to Baltimore for to see us? until I can get more time. if I come by Rail road I can stop & bring her with me. Please write on the receipt of this and tell me her no. as I have lost & forgotten it.

Please give my kindest regards to the Dr. tell him I shall certainly come, unless Sudden death interposes. My back is troubling me a little more than usual jest now, from extra standing, walking. I think my discharges have not been so bad since San Francisco as they were this morning, some improved this evening I think. I walked too much yesterday &c. I will write again tomorrow unless I am better. next day any how. Enclosed I send a letter I've just rec'd from the U.S. Counsel at Nicaragua, thinking it may interest you a little. Please preserve it for me again. With Love to Sarah & Mollie best wishes to the Dr. to yourself more Love than I can write, will come & bring it, soon, God bless us. Write on receipt of this, excuse brevity, Rhodolph.

Hall Letters 301. May 1, 1866; Kate and Rhodolph in Baltimore to Lucy in New Haven.

My Dear Sis Lucie,

I have delayed a while in answering your welcome favor thinking very much that Rhodolph would be along, and now that he is here I must send the gratifying news to you. he arrived here on Monday Morning about 1/2 -- 7 o'clock waking us out of a sound sleep and giving a pleasant surprise. I suppose we shall leave here next Saturday for Philadelphia stay over the Sabbath with Sister Celia. Rhodolph thinks he shall have to leave then on Monday but I shall remain longer as I have not made any visit there. how very often we wish that you were here. I and R. keep saying if only "lutey and Mrs. Jeffers were here." I am sure that you would have enjoyed a visit here hugely for it is as warm a pleasant as summer -- flowers of all kinds blooming in the garden, the grass at least a foot high. I send you a few flowers in this. The white cup flower is the Lilly of the Valley. I am expecting Sarah to dine with us tomorrow. R. dined with her to day. I will leave him give you the particulars as he wants me to leave a few for him. I was extremely sorry to learn of your sore throat. I think you must have suffered greatly. I hope that you have entirely recovered by this time. Give my love to Annie and [Molly] tell them I am coming, My kindest regards to all friends. My address while in Phila. will be No 17 North 17th St. should be very happy to hear from you and them. Mr Shatinck has given up spiritual affairs in disgust and returned to his [] Cork "a sadder if not wiser man." I must leave the rest for my pet porcupine to show his guiles with much love, think me truly yours,
Katie.

Dear Lucie,

Do not think I am mean for not writing you before, when I tell you that when I have not been playing, I have been thinking how I should get along with my Elephant -- God knows I have sent "trunks" enough up to the old Homestead but they may not be the kind adopted to the Elephant. I visited Lyme one week ago last Friday via Fitchburg where we played for a Funeral. Found the Friends all in usual health. Hired the giant John Gilbert for the month, he boards himself. Bought a yoke oxen the best & handsomest ever owned on the place, turned my sheep out to pasture, skinned a dead one on Sunday, Sat John at plowing, fensing &c. I have had to buy over \$100 worth of hay after D.C. represented there was sufficient to keep the sheep through &c. I intended to have sent you the \$20. long ago, but will pay you any moment you say you must have it. but shall have to sacrifice my Bonds &c.

I shall be in New Haven next Monday or Tuesday and will settle with you some way. Should like to secure brother Johnson with my Bonds for a hundred or so, untill I get my wool off, as my interest is due the 1st of July in gold, would rather not put them in market untill I draw the next 6 months interest &c. which is due July 1st.

With the favors of some friends I shall be able to retain the Old Homestead but if all turn a cold shoulder, I shall be obliged to sell the Elephant & go back to my usual independent Homeless state of cares. I never expect to be so free from cares as I were before purchasing the farm. I dined with Sarah today. she is pleasantly located, though not in a profitable business. I have engaged many of her things in case she breaks up houskeeping. Which I think is the best thing she can do, as her boarders are not punctual on the Forkover

Katie gives me hell for filling up this space with my cares & business, instead of illustrating the beauties of Baltimore &c. Well it is indeed a beautifull City. and very Lovely here now. every thing in Foliage, of a Vegatable kind here now, about 2 weeks ahead of New England, but this is only what you allready know. Dr. Morris is in excelent Health & good spirits. Well, he may be with the wealth he posseses. he is doing all in his power to make our visit pleasant here. He is a "Brick" of Johnsons belief as regards politics. You must visit him some time &c. I played for a concert at Gloucester Mass. last Friday evening. I there Purchased 1/2 bbl Mackerel & sent to Lyme, they are no. 1 extra. Come up this summer & help us pick their bones and have a dam good time. I think Sarah will visit us there. for want of space, will tell you the rest, when I see you. Untill I see you, God bless us as ever, Love to Children & Friends, Rhodolph.

Hall Letters 302. June 5, 1866; Rhodolph in Boston to Lucy in New Haven.

Dear Sis Lucie,

Do not blame me for not having written to you before this time as you little know the anxiety which has been my lot to ponder over &c. Farm Debts, gold cornets. I have many times wished the d--l had the holl lot of my perplexities. However, there is, I hope a brighter day coming for me some time. I write to invite you to come on to the concert Saturday night.

The Cornet is done, and the most beautiful thing I ever saw, & I have seen considerable. it beats the gold Bugle to pieces. I am to christen it 9th ins. I herewith send you a few Ideas which I may get off. provided I do not feel too sick, or get excited. I wish you would correct & punctuate. Cut out & put in, where you think will Improve. I only send what I think I could remember & get off with a good grace &c. perhaps too much if so cut out &c. Excuse haste. please give a little attention and return, your views &c. at the earliest possible moment and do not hesitate to tell me where I am wrong, as I am feeling miserable and this concert is exciting me you know which is bad for me. but I hope it will soon be over.

Why not come on Sat to Concert. You intend coming this season I know you said so. why not come Sat. 9th it is only a circumstance of my life time. I have not time to say more. Love to all the Friends &c. Let no one see my "Block, head Speach." God bless us, Rhodolph. Direct to 112 Congress St. Boston As soon as convenient & oblige. I expect Katie Saturday.

[Following are the notes enclosed with letter.]

I herewith give you only a few hints in the rough. "Destiny shapes our ends rough hew them as we may". Agu Spear.

It is now two years since I have appeared before a Boston audience. And during my absence, it has been My determination not to do discredit to my profession.

Your presence tonight are to me a cheering evidence that my efforts have met your approbation.

I hope I may live to see the time when American People will not think less of their own Artists than that of Foreign talent, &c.

Lest you should say of me as regards a speech, as was said in London, "No one but a "blarsted" Yankee would dare to stand up and play that way without accompaniment."

Thank you is all I can offer, though they are too diminutive words to express the gratitude I feel for the Honor you confer on me by your presence on this momentous occasion.

Yours truly, Oliver Ditson

Ladies & Gentlemen:

My accustomed speeches are delivered "In a Horn," for which I trust due allowance will be made as I am not prepared with Notes, except such as I discount at sight.

Your presence here tonight
Is to me a cheerful sight
We'll try with all our might
That your ears we may delight

(But should we fail in our attempt
I'll refer you to "Father Kemp"
And when we are through our "Stent" -- (Programme)
You may all go and "Pull Hemp"
Down in Jef Davis Tent. "An be Damd".

Only in case I should be called out 2nd time, or have what is called a double encore. I must be prepared you know. Write early as possible and do it good.

Hall Letters 303. June 5, 1866; Rhodolph in Boston to Sarah in Baltimore.

Very Dear Sis Sarah,

Yours of 3rd ins. is this instant Rec'd. in replying, must reveal to you jest my fix. Have you given a thought, how a man might go to California, take his wife with him, have plenty of Sickness, all sorts of expences, and return in so short a time as I did and get back so safe alive, and yet not make a great pile of money. It is supposed that I am rotten with money, and I do not wish to undeceive the multitude of suppositions for you know that a man thought rich gets more favors as well as ten times the attentions which a man does known to be poor. Please say nothing. When I tell you the truth. I had to borow \$100. of brother Johnson which was humiliating enough, to get home with and pay little bills with. &c. Since that, I borrowed \$40. of D.C. all of which I am paying 7 3/10 for. I went to Lyme & Dam me if every body didn't Dun me except Morey, but he done worse, he borrowed \$10. of me so that I had not enough to buy my ticket to Boston and got trusted for Fare to W. R. Junction Vt. and when I got into Boston, borrowed enough to buy me a Plate of beens 15 cts as I went without my dinner on the road &c. this is Gods truth. I have not had playing since I came from Lyme to clear my teeth, and have borrowed a dollar now & then to keep stomach from gnawing. What is still worse D.C. wants about twenty six hundred dollars now due on the old Homestead. I think of letting him have the old farm for his pay or sell it to Hannibal Chase, as I did not know the reckless condition it was in. I have had to run in debt for \$150. worth hay, any amt. for seed to sew, of every kind, besides have got to pay \$250 for Oxen as soon as I can get it. To be sure I can sell my bonds the 1st of July But they will not cover my debts, I think. However I will get D.C. to forward you some money if he can possibly do so rite away. he is gone to Lowell today. Edna, has been quite sick with spasoms &c. but is better now. Those things you sent came all safe I found them at Thetford Vt. first time I saw them. The freight was little over \$9. did you not make a special bargain to have them go though to Thetford for \$5. I thought so, and the Bill looks so to. Please write me about it. that I may correct young Churchills mistake at depot Thetford. I should like the other Iron Bedstead, or both, also your parlor bed & Bedstead the 3 best chairs, one was a rocking chair. Will pay you for them some time, if I am able to keep the old Elephant farm &c. The Free Masons have decided not to go on the excursion at present. The burning of Hotel at Saratoga nocks us out of the Summer playing there, also who in H--l cares. we have a good Poor house at Lyme. Ha!! Ha! My concert bids fair to be the concert of the season. Prospects Bulley. Why cant you borow about \$15. of your Borders & come rite on. I should like to see you here to it Concert. I will pay your Fare back. Would send it to you but havnt got it & have borrowed of every body. I send you Programme. If you could get to N.Y. so as to take P.M. Boat Fall river route. they are splendid Boats only \$5. fare from N.Y. to Boston that way. Love to Dr. & all Friends. R.H.

P.S. Keep a stiff uper lip if you cant come to concert for I know you want to &c. Excuse great haste I will have D.C. Write soon. Words Can not express the beauty of the new Gold cornet. You shall see & hear it some time. Come on if possible.

Hall Letters 304. June 6, 1866; Rhodolph in Boston to Lucy in New Haven.

Dear Lucie,

Enclosed I send the five tickets which Mr. Johnson subscribed or donated for. Will you please hand them to him and oblige me. also say to him I shall allways remember with Pleasure that he is one of the contributors to the Instrument of my pride. I shall allways be pleased to contribute to his pleasure in the way of music &c. Why can you not both come on Saturday with Katie, it would chear me to see you on the eventfull night. also extend the invitation to brother Jeffers & Family.

Enclosed I also send a note to Katie. which I wish you to hand her, &c. The prospects are for a full house, on Saturday evening. I dread the ceremony. I received a line from Sarah today asking if Johnson would attend to the Life Insurance for her, which I left with him &c. She is well.

Please extend my best compliments to all the friends &c. Truly & Respectfully,
Rhodolph.

[Program of presentation concert included]

Hall letters 304.5. June 9, 1866; notes to Rhodolph's speech on receiving the gold cornet.

Disconnected Ideas of-- for the Presentation Concert &c. Original of course,

Ladies & Gentlemen -- you do not expect a speach here, from the "plow Boy" of 1844 -- or is my voice the music you came to hear. Wandering as I have been; unmolested by the "Highwaymen" (or robbers) of the "Siera Nevada Mts" Thoroughly Shaken, but not taken by the Earthquakes of San Francisco; Watching, for weeks over the sick & dieng at Sea; Burying my personal friends in the Island of Cuba -- or enjoying the "Cool comfort" for day & nights among the "Ice Bergs" in the Atlantic Ocean -- all these incidents have reminded me, that "Destiny shapes our ends, rough hew them as we may" (Shakespere is it not?) I have contributed to the pleasure of people of 6 provinces, 2 kingdoms & 3 republics, and notwithstanding the flattering applause & encores of the "Crowned Heads of Europe," I must here acknowledge this the proudest moment of my life (I suppose, gag) This beautifull gift not won by Raffle or Rivelry makes it doubly dear to me.

This weight of gold; gentlemen, you put in my hands, does not exceed the burden of gratitude, which will rest (roost) upon my soul untill the day of my death.

I know this (child) is from Friends ever Faithfull, I accept it with a Heart truly greatfull. You tender me gold, gentlemen.

In return I shall offer you "notes" They may not be worth Counterfiting and let those (my rivals) Discount them who can.

As for you Elder Cudworth, I thank you for having performed this wedding ceremony. though I have fears that we are a married couple (myself & Instrument) on too short a courtship. for when I put my lips to her -- she will scream.

I'll try her, then & finger over her nipples, & give them my solo best I possibly can with the new gold cornet. Yours "Alco Hol,"

Hall Letters 305. July 22, 1866; Rhodolph in Saratoga to Sarah in Baltimore.

Dear Sister,

Since I wrote to you last I have had much on my mind and any amount of hard playing & running about to do. I intended to have written you long before this time, but you will pardon the delay, I hope. as I could do you no good by writing.

I wrote you twelve months ago today from Oregon, you know reminding you of this our birth day. I sincerely hope, you are in health, and a state of mind to Celebrate a little. never mind, I hope on, feeling confident the day is coming when we, we may Selebrate with more bim vim then jest at present. I mean when not oppressed with debts, thankfull for the Comfortable health, that I am now in no continnal distress of body, if my mind is a little feverish &c. I have been at times driven mad allmost by the questions when can or how soon will you pay &c. Of those too, who I have accomodated. This buying the Homestead to keep it in the family, is "played out" - dam it. I almost wish an Earthquake had swallowed the holl dam lot of it. A mighty dear school is that of human nature and experience though one learns to know who his friends are &c.

Window glass broken, Door keys broken & knobs of doors gone, all the Old Iron which my Father had layed up for convenience even sold. Not even a musterd seed left for to sowe. As I have said, I would work til my fingers bleed, to save the home of my Boyhood from outsiders, So I have had to. It's now, "Can't you let me have this & that." When I find the right customer, I think they can have the Holl. ie. I expect that I shall sell out & go to California again &c.

How about the things, I told you I should like. I have no doubt that D.C. has more money jest now to pay you, then I have, as he has got considerable of me, but not all thank God. Should you want the things you sent me, or the money for them before I am able to get it for you, You are wellcome to them. the \$14.-- expence Freight &c. I wont ask for. the things I told you I wanted, you have sent to D.C. it seems. Why have you not answered my last letter? Can you not visit Saratoga this summer? I should like very much to see you here, "Sara Toga," makes very nice watter. You will have to drink gin, to beat her I think. I went to Lyme with Kate two weeks ago yesterday. Opened the old home. expressly that you Lucy & Mrs. Jeffers were coming to Lyme and thought it would be more pleasant for you all, to have the house open, and in shap for you to enjoy a visit there, then to have it Locked up & so dreary &c. So Kate is there, working, like as if her life depended on it. Killing spiders & Moths & aranging her little stock of goods &c. I want you all to go there and try and make it pleasant for yourselves & Kate while you may, for I feel like a "Breaker" which the troubled Sea of Life, is fast wearing away, and believe me, it will be a long time before you will meet a Heart at the old home, more desirous of making you happy. and no knowing how long I may be permitted to greet you there. The business here allmost denies my meeting you at the Old Home this summer, but jes let me know when you are there -- and cuss me if I don't come. Now Sis dont mind the little bad humor I may at times write, for when I get thinking I nearly go Crazy, -- What a fool I am, to take such a load of responsibility on my poor lame Back.

The season here is beginning to be very gay. 208 arrivals at our Union Hotel yesterday. over 600 now in all. We should like much to see our Rich relations here -- but I am thankful that they do not require the medicinal qualities of the Springs and, as we are not much on the dress & show off, will take our own time for mineral watter. I send this in Sis Lucies care, as may be you'l be gone from Baltimore &c. if not give my greatest Esteem to Doctor Morris, Compliments to all other Friends -- when you write either, -- and please don't forget that while I live, you have a true & devoted friend & brother -- God bless you, Rhodolph. Glad to have you write but wont urge it.

Hall Letters 306. July 26, 1866; Rhodolph in Saratoga to Sarah in Baltimore.

Dear Sis Sarah,

Your favor of the 25th ins. is this evening received, layed on my Music stand as I came in the Ball room to play 2 hours ago. it is now 11 1/4 o'clock in answer will say without serimony that I am glad to hear that you are not attacked with Colera. next place "1st ly" I wrote to you the 22nd ins. our birth day. as I always do, you know I wrote to you on our birth day from California last birth day. &c. it seems however that you have not received mine yet, as I directed to New Haven in care of Sis Johnson, told her to forward it to you, If you were not there, as I judged by your letter to D.C. (about your things that you would be at N-Haven before my Letter. You have no kneed of scolding me for negligence of writing, for I have had the D--l own to put up with in the way of business. &c.

You must know, I have the great North American Farmer at Lyme towork for me, John Gilbert with Farming, moving, Playing, giving Concerts &c. &c. have nearly killed me, I wished a thousand times, that I had stayed in California, and let the Farm gone to the D--l.

This is between ourselves, dont mention it to Dr. or out of the Family untill I get a good chance to sell it for if I keep it, it will rob me of every dam Dollar I can earn untill I die. and dam me if I will stand that you know. I wrote a pretty bad letter to you, via New-Haven, but dont mind it. Come this way to Lyme -- never mind the board or price of Board, The Band board and lodge at a Private House for \$7-- per week, but Hotel board is from \$4--to \$8-- per. day.-- and I think you better have me look you up a private boarding place, if you wish to stay a week or two. &c. Kate is at Lyme fixing and expecting you and the New-Haven Friends up there every day. &c. She will get out of patience & come here very soon I think. I had a letter from brother Jeffers the other day saying, He & wife were a going to Lyme, jest as soon as Mary Daverson gets over the "Dorapsey under her apron" &c.

The watter of the Columbian Spring here is doing me much good I think. I am free of Pain in my back now, but hurts me to bend yet & I can't get my hands over back of my head without distress. &c.

Katie is coming here for a few weeks after a while. The State Fare is to be here in September. there is to be another Races here in Sept. also. I am blowing the Calls for the Races here now, all alone every day at the Race Cource. it does not interfere with the Hotel business also Play in the Opera house 1 1/2 hour every night untill the "Hops" commense at the Hotel &c. I must mak a dollar when I can you know but the harder I work the poorer I grow I believe.

I am sory you did not direct your things to be sent through to Lyme as I could have paid you some time, and may be as much and as soon as D.C. however I all right. D.C. says tell Sarah "I am going to Boston" Saturday and will make enquiry, and see after your things. I received a letter from the Dr. this morning. Please tell him that D.C. says, the \$50-- came all right, to pardon him for not acknowledging as pressure of business &c. in great haste, give my kind Compliments to Dr. & all Friends. Write on receipt. God bless you. Rhodolph. The new cornet is all the admiration of the guests here &c.

Hall Letters 309. Feb. 28, 1867; Rhodolph in Boston to Lucy in New Haven.

Dear Sister,

I left Lyme Tuesday and played at East Kingston N.H. -- at Stoneham last night for a concert with our Band & Edna for the Lyceum, very full house arrived in Boston at 11 o'clock last night. today find a letter here for you at shop &c. which I forward with it find nine dollars seventy five cts. \$9.75. I now owe you (\$10.00) ten dollars. I left people all well at Lyme. My hired man Levi thought he was working too cheap for me, or that he could get higher wages, I suppose. thought he had a very hard unpleasant time during Kates visit to Phila. Swore muchly about it &c. I paid him off two dollars per month more then he asked and took a receipt in full. Billy the one from D.C.s is doing very well for me at present. No sleding, though I have a good wood pile up at the door. Should send you the other \$10.-- but found many & large bills to pay at Lyme some yet due. &c.

Tell Johnson to come and buy the Homestead, as I have a chance to go to Paris for six month to play. think of going in April. Please give Love to all Friends. Write me soon, Truly yours

Rhodolph.

P.S. Katie says your carpet of rags &c. which you mentioned is in the chamber all safe when you wish it. The Hall family are well in Boston as far as I know. Rhodolph We play at Woburn tonight & tomorow night at North Brookfield Mass. Please write direct to No. 103 Court St. Boston.

Hall Letters 310. Apr. 24, 1867; Rhodolph in Lyme to Sarah in Baltimore.

Dear Sister,

Your favor of 22d ins. via Boston came to hand Saturday. Am much obliged and glad to know you are all well &c.

I am beginning to be distressed in my Stomach. Same as two years ago. but not bad yet and only by Spels. Thos. & Jane are quite smart as also Jeffers' people last I saw of them. I came home last Wednesday & saw them then.

I have hired a young couple to work a year on the farm & they occupy Kitchen Dining Room Bed room near the kitchen and two back chambers. they are doing as well as the Season will admit of. Appeare to be suited, and I feel as though they will suite me. Can you not come and make us a visit now? it is a little muddy here just now but the Birds begin to Sing & I expect it will soon be warm & pleasant. I intend to take trip to Baltimore soon and will call on my return & get the Dog out of your way. tell Lucy I will satisfy for his board &c. when I come. D.C. has the contract on Steamers this summer. but wants me some less then I can get for traveling. I shall travel I think or not play at all. He wants to make a Hundred per. week and me a further "cat paw" I "don't see it" in that light. My stock 70 sheep, 13 cattle & Horse, 2 Hogs, are all looking fine Shall summer ove 5 to 10 tons of Hay. Have the best wood piles I've had in 3 years, all ready to pile in shed. Some are finishing sugaring. We do not make any. have not been to any sugar party yet. &c. got timber & Lumber for a Plaza in front of L. part and shall put it through just as soon as Frost is out to lay foundation, help all engaged &c. &c. Intend to do some farming as I've two yoke oxen and two good horses 4 cows &c. Prospects of warm weather some time by July. &c. I may be able to "Ghost you" soon. -- will try. Please excuse brevity as a man is wating to take this to the cars &c. My fervent Regards to all the Friends can you tell me the hours that Hermants conducts the train out of N.Y. Having a ticket from Boston to & from Bos. to N.Y. shall come that way &c.

Please write me a Card or so direct here Box 54 P.O. Lyme. As ever yours Rhodolph.

[Stationery advertisement for Halls' Quadrille, Brass & Concert Band]

Hall Letters 311. June 7, 1867; Rhodolph in Kingston, N.Y. to Lucy in New Haven.

Dear Sister,

Inclosed find postage check for twenty Dollars (\$20.--) please give me credit for, on the note. I shall send more, as fast as I get it &c. this is of the first weeks salery, that I have received. I have now about three hundred, due me, which I expect soon. have not been doing a very paying business. We are all well, I think traveling agrees with me, but do not know how long I shall continue. We are going Westward now, and as I have business in Cleveland, may go that far &c.

All well as usual at Lyme the last I heard. I have to send small amounts home, when I write, for family use &c. It is raining hard here, just now, and is much needed. I would give you our rout, but do not know it after Thursday June 9th are then at Catskill N.Y. I will send you a paper where to write me, as soon as I learn of a place far ahead enough. or if you acknowledge the receipt of this at Catskill N.Y. I can have it forwarded from there &c.

I hope this will reach you safely & find you all well give my Love to the girls & all the friends &c.

Excuse brevity as I have but little leisure &c. in great haste,

Rhodolph Hall.

Hall Letters 313. July 16, 1867; Rhodolph in Saratoga Springs to Lucy in New Haven.

Dear Sister,

I have come to the conclusion that your family duties are so multiplied that you get not time to write or else you have become strangely serimonious for you do not pretend to write me unless I ask or jog your memory &c. I have no strange incidents to relate. I sent you a paper today, but don't know as it will reach you I directed to No. 107 but since, believe it to be No. 171. the paper (Boston Sat Eve Express) has a true notice of our interview with Pres. Johnson & Seward, Randa & Gen Roseau while on our way to Wms. Coll. they on way to New Haven &c. the interview would not have come about at all had it not been for me, as I proposed it to the Conductor of the train to show the Digs. our instruments. I got an extra shake of the hand from Seward, on his finding me, to be acquainted with Dr. Morris "much more a relative" he said &c. Had a jolly time with them. they treated to a bumper of good whiskey & a cegar &c. &c.

Chief Justice Chase is here now, we seranaded him last night, also is Morisey &c. Are you not coming this way this summer? The hight of the season will be in 1st to Middle of Aug. but if you cant come until Sept. come for as to go with Kate & I to Lyme when we get through here. I have not time to particularise. I have found the Ring of so great a charm I feared that I had lost it but hapy to say I had layed it away so choise that I made out to come across it on my last visit to the Elephant at Lyme. I enclose it with pleasure to you. I arrived here last week Tuesday one week this morning &c. I am not quite sure of staying through the season as D.C. is very Cross & arbitrary, grows more so as he grows older &c.

When I left Boston I was urged to write a letter every week to the paper (Boston Express) I promised to do so. they want to give a little Correspondence in every week, now. If you think of a yarn on the Nature of Mineral Watter jest give me the kews & I'll send you all that I see interesting &c. the Editor is a great Lover of Music and friend of Hall's Band &c. Write me something for next week please.

I have no more time now. had a letter from Kate today she is well, has got a hired girl and 3 hired men &c. give my love to Robert & Sarah the children, accept for yourself & Saml an abundant share &c. the same to Brother Jeffers & family. As in youth affectionately Yours, Rhodolph. Please write on Receipt of this.

Hall Letters 314. Aug. 26, 1867; Rhodolph in Saratoga to Lucy in New Haven.

Dear Sister,

Your long looked for favor, came safe to hand this moment, do not think me excited at so immediate a reply. I long since, hoped you would forward the Memoranda (bill) I sent. that I might have settled the little perplexing bill of articles, had of Sis S. I have had fears, I admit, that in a fit of excitement I might written some word, that had given offence, but mouldered over your too good sense to have treted me with so sever contempt as silence. but am real glad to know if you have done anything wrong you are willing to be forgiven; so am I.

This has been the livelies season ever known at Saratoga, so said by old inhabitants. What is lost in accomodation by the burning of States & Congress Hotels has been doubly replaced by extencive boarding houses, which have been completly jamed ful the past season &c. The new Congress Hall is goin up rapidly just now, and has been ever since we came. the enterprising landlord, Hathorn of the Congress Hall is now dealing "hot Bricks" to his masons, instead of Hot Bread to guests as he was want to do in former years &c. As a kiln of brick to the amount of 50,000 have been delivered in a single day, so hot the men had to use mittens to handle them. this I saw, and know. last week I and other saw a load of Brick go past our boarding place and the bottom boards of the wagon were rooling up blue smoke, as they were on fire from hot Brick. It leads one to exclaim, Oh! dear what will this "Young America" be when he gets to be a middle aged cuss.

I have not time to picture to you the fantastic Masquerade Military & Civic Ball which came off last week. and have only time to say a very quiet little shooting affair came off at the Union Yesterday at 11 o'clock A.M. You doubtles will have news of it ere this reaches you. the man was constable & Jail keeper at Hudson N.Y. -- arrived at 10 A.M. was a dead "Corpus" at 11 o'clock -- had been drinking on the Boat -- came with 3 or more friends on a Train to appearance quite boistrous, noisey, used abusive language a treatment to a young man, who was having his Boots blacked & minding his own business &c. The man (dead) was sent back to N.J. via. the evening train Sunday (arrived via 10 AM train) he leaves a mother & two sisters. The Murderer, was a young man that kept the Billiard Saloon under the Leland Opera house. It is thought here that they will not hang him as he cautioned the man to go away about his business & not trouble him. he declares that he thought he put his hand under his coat behind him for a Pistol when he shot him. The man lived only 5 minutes, and did not speak after. the shooter, saw what he had done & ran for assistance, saying he had shot a man. gave himself up &c. Is very penentant, &c. it is thought they will not hang him as he cautioned the man. And the man was medling with what did not become a Man &c. Consequently ran a risk of personal injury &c. &c. I did not see any of it, but had passed throug the space way -- 10 minutes previous to the occurence.

Give love to Sarah, Mrs. Jeffers, and all the Friends. I should like very much if you will be so kind as to cast the interest on the note, brother Saml, has against me & give me the figures, as I want to pay it up so as to be able to borow more &c. I now have the Money, but it will soon go. so you better have it, then some later debts. Please do send me the amount of interest acrued. I sent \$50.-- of it you recollect last summer, while here. I

will send the other \$5.00 also due on Sarahs bill. please send me the memorandum of that which I sent you.

D.C.s complimentary Ball (fancy dress) is to take place this week Friday night. The Band some expect to leave on Sat. morning for Boston, except 6 members for the Hofrs. as the contract only is to Sept. 1st but we all may stay another week or more. I rec'd letter (with yours) from Katie. All well at Lyme -- Hiram was to start for New Haven next day or so. Do not delay writing please. In great haste, excuse bad writing, spelling &c. believe me as ever your devoted brother. Rhodolph

Hall Letters 315. Sept. 9, 1867; Rhodolph in Boston to Sarah in Baltimore.

Dear Sarah,

We all arrived home Safe about 7 O'clock Sat. evening. On leaving in such a hurry I came away & left my two Flutes in two cases, of Black leather covers with a leather strap buckled around them. I think I left them at the foot of the bed, by the chimmeny. Will you be so kind as to put them in your trunk. untill I come after them, or untill you get a chance to send them to me &c.

But I want you to write to me at once, that I may know they are all safe.

Do not fail to write by return of mail direct to No. 103 Court St. Boston.

I have not yet rec'd any thing from Sis Johnson. I intended to have settled with you, the little difference your due. I sent Lucie a five dollar note, and suppose you have an understanding about it. there is five dollars more due on our account &c.

Please write without delay if the Flutes are all safe. and keep them for me &c. give my compliments to the Friends. I intend to go to Lyme on Friday next. Very Truly yours
Rhodolph (dam such paper)

Hall Letters 316. Oct. 20, 1867; Rhodolph in Boston to Lucy in New Haven.

Dear Sister,

I should have replied to your favor ere this but have been Occupied "Muchly," &c. Enclosed is (\$30.--) thirty Dollars which please acknowledge at Convenience. I shall send the remainder, \$25.-- just as soon as I get that much together or collect &c.

I hope you are all in prosperity. I saw brother Spear yesterday, he is looking well &c. We start for New-York 4 o'clock tomorow P.M. for a 4 days excursion with the Boston Fusileers via Worcester & Norwich line. return Friday, should be glad to call on you, on our return but do not expect it will be so I can. I left Lyme last Tuesday. since, have been two days at Bath Me. to Firemens Muster &c. Wm. Clark was being buried as I left Lyme. died of Heart disease, supposed with Apoplexy shall go to Lyme next Saturday God Willing &c.

Please respond to 103 Court St. Boston Mass. as I shall be here Friday evening next &c.

With much love to all the Friends, excuse brevity as the clock has jest Pealed 12 & I must Peal. God bless you & yours.
Rhodolph Hall (Bad pen & paper)

Hall Letters 317. Dec. 2, 1867; Rhodolph in Boston to Lucy in New Haven.

Dear Sis Lucie,

I am ashamed, to have kept you in want of the enclosed twenty five Dollars so long. I rec'd it Saturday last. the first time I have had \$25.-- in my pocket since I sent you the \$30.-- as fast as I could get ten Dollars there has been demands for it, and my taxes are not yet paid &c. You must know that there being no sale for wool that my creditors have had to wait. I have now half a ton of wool. -- two years clipings and no one buying, also 220 sheep, which if I can get a dollar a head shall sell them all but 4 bucks. I bought a Buck at Middleburg last July which I would not take \$200.-- for, pure spanish blood. the grandfather of it was worth \$15,000.-- the celebrated "Gold droop" owned by Mr. Hamond the great importer of Spanish sheep at Middleburg &c. I returned from My "Agrecultural college" last Wednesday & played at Nashua 27th and at Milford Mass. Thanksgiving night. \$25.-- & expences for the two nights hard jobs &c. While home, I killed my 11 month Pig. he weighed 287 lbs (very nice) have another to kill soon which will weigh 300, and a beauty to winter, (for a mother,) which I took up from Woburn last winter, the Butcher says it is the handsomest S-- he ever saw &c. I got through my Threshing also had 40 bushels beautifull wheat, 80 of Oats, about 75 of the best corn I ever saw raised any where, an 5 1/2 bushels white beens &c &c. Hay was good, but not half mowed. I hope to sell 200 sheep & buy about 50 breeding sheep, that will sheer more than double the wool per head &c. "Crops" came in well, and no Bones broken though I cracked the bone in my left ancle three weeks ago & it is very lame yet. but so that I go limping about &c. every thing considered I have reason to feel Thankfull. Did you have a jolly good Thanksgiving? You must know since I was 15 years old have not known what it is to dine at home Thanksgiving day. As have allways had to go & blow all night. but Katie & her sister thought me worth an effort so they put heads together and a Neighbor, good neighbor Wm. Demick got a Turkey at A. Englishes & made them a present of it so they made Thanksgiving week ago yesterday, Sunday, in honor of my being at home then, to partake of it &c. I was all a King could wish, I mean the cooking &c. Turkey stuffed, mince pie with \$16-- per gal Brandy in them ha! Whiskey & New cider! Want they good though. I forgot to tell you I got my Cider [Mowe] while there, over 2 bbls, how I wish you & Sam would come up there, about New-Years will you? I'll be there if you will. I have the finest Yoke Oxen in the country. hired Joel Mayo for 4 months this winter he commences next Monday getting out Timber & lumber. shall take the old Barn & uper shed Carefully down early in Spring & frame over a new Barn, to stand end to the road, not so near as now, and Move the Horse Barn to the end of the Woodshed end to the road between the new Barn & house &c. God Willing. I may want to borow a Dollar will brother lend do you think, secure with wool &c. Please tell me the interest on this \$25.-- since I sent the other & I'll pay. Send my note soon as possible as this makes the amount I believe. Love to all. don't delay so long writing. Please excuse brevity &c. Love to Jeffers & Family Saml & children God bless you.

Rhodolph

P.S. Music business is very dull this season, but I want you to tell me, is Aunt Lydia's birth day 1st of Jan. are they well? & love to them.

Hall Letters 318. Apr. 16, 1868; Rhodolph in Boston to Lucy in New Haven.

Dear Sister,

I hardly know what to say, having so little to say, I suppose. Do I owe you a letter? or do you owe me one? I can't say. Never mind if I do wrong I am willing to be forgiven, or to forgive others. I have playe, worked hard the past winter, what for? please tell me. Played 15 weeks 6 nights per week the holl time, excepting two nights when I steared clear of engagement. I came near commiting suicide those two nights. should had I not been too much worn out, suppose I never have done the like before & never will again. I am very low as regards health, more so then any know of. Kidneys not as good as roten eggs, No vitality, the only hopefull prospect is, my tolerably good apetite. I had an excelent hired man at home loging & taking care of the stock, so my mind was easy there. He got out timber enough, with what Little Levi got the winter before to make a new barn. I left the old Roost the 14th ins. left 5 big "He critter" in the shape of men, at work "hewing" & "framing" & "drawing watter" one of their wives helping Katie about the house. I go home Saturday to take down the old barn. it may seem sad to demolish the old structure where we have had so many livings & Gallops up on the Hay, Hide & Seeks &c. But to make the old familiar saying true, "the places that now know us shall soon know us no more forever" it must be did &c.

Hazen Carr is doing the work for me, a right good thorough workman & a nice man. He promises me the best Barn ever built in Lyme, as he says I have the hansomest place for it & the best timber he ever put in a Barn &c. it will set rite in the old road at the end of the woodshed, end toward the road, or East. Barn floor top of the beems 14 feet above the sills with a sheep shed or cellar 7 to 8 feet deep under the holl it is to be 6 feet wider then the old one. 38 by 52 Can you not come to the Raising? So do. about two weeks from Saturday. Should have it sooner, but the frost prevents my getting the foundation ready.

Tell Brother Johnson to bring you up to the Raising & make us a visit. also extend the invitation to Brother Jeffers & Sis Mary.

How will it be in case I should want a hundred dollars or so, can & would Johnson have it to spare a few months? I have had it offered another way, but would not like the Mortification of being obliged to accept it & c. there. I may not want it, but like to be independent in some matters &c. I expect we shall play at Saratoga again, the coming summer, if my business does not deny it at the old farm &c.

I want to see you all very much, and live in hope that circumstances other then a Funeral may bring us face to face again, soon. Why wont you let it be as well a Raising, as a Husking? How is Aunt & Cousin Lydias? did Aunt L. get a New years birth day present? I have not heard a word from you for so long, it seems an age.

Please bear my kind & best wishes to all my Friends. Sisters, Brother & Nieces. Please answer at your earliest convenience direct to Lyme. D.C. & I play at old Haverhill Mass. for a concert tonight 17th on My way to Lyme &c. D.C. & Family are very well &c. God bless you Rhodolph.

P.S. Please tell me where is Sis Sarah & Robert. My Love to them when you write to them &c.

Letters 319-339 (June 21, 1868 to Summer, 1873)

Hall Letters 319. June 21, 1868; Edna in Boston to Lucy in New Haven.

Dear Sister Lucy

I wish I did not always have to begin a letter with an apology but such is the case. The many cares that I always have, and the presence of scarlet fever in our house for the last few weeks has rather increased my cares. Kittie Hall has had scarlet fever and had it so lightly as falls to the lot of mortals, but Oh wasn't it a task to keep her in bed and scratch her when she was getting over it. Mr. Sprague who boards with us had it first. Daisy I think has got too much Hall to take any of those diseases for she has never had any thing that little folks are heir to except Chicken pox. I sent a box last week to Aunt Lydia with a few comforts. Part were from Mrs. Washburn. Enclosed are five dollars that she gave me to send. Will you please give it to Aunt Lydia and explain to her about the box.

How are they getting along. Where is Sarah. When last we heard from her she was in Washington. Has she seen Robert yet, and how is he coming on with his patient. I have had a house full of boarders for several weeks. My friend Mrs. Warren had to give up her house in Avon Place to come here until she goes away into the country. I shall go away in July to Poultney, Vermont to teach in the Normal Musical school for five or six weeks. I send with this a paper with a notice of a concert I sang for the 17th last week. Where are you going for the summer. I wish you would come to Poultney, it is delightful there. I have a great many friends there and anticipate a nice time there. How do the girls get along in school. I am going to send my children to school this fall. I do not want Daisy to go until Kit is big enough. They are both very anxious to go. They often talk of N. Haven, and wonder why their aunties never come here. I do wish you would come this summer or rather fall. I shall be away until the middle or last of August. I want you to come before the concert season for I do not have many days to my self after that. We have had a very rainy season so far only three or four really hot days yesterday and Friday being two of them. The weather however has changed since morning so it is to cold for comfort. When is Ellen Carr coming from California. Give my love to all the N. Haven friends and write soon. DC sends love. Your Aff Sister,
Edna A. Hall

[Pamphlet about the Vermont Normal Music School enclosed.]

Hall Letters 320. July 22, 1868; Rhodolph in Saratoga to Sarah in Washington, D.C.

Dear Sister,

I received the papers you sent of 11th ins. and sent you a paper Saratogian some time since, did you get it? This is our birth day and I should like to know how you are spending it. I am celebrating it on spring watter, as I have not been paid any Salery yet and having had many large bills to pay for the building of my Barn at the Agrecultural College. I have to curtale my Tobacco & Drinks, at times. take a "smile" when invited, - - cegar when urged to &c. I suppose when you come to Lyme you will feel as Thos. said he did, when I commensed to take down the old Barn "as though he should cry" &c. When I leave this world of strife, I do not think there will sufficient tears shed ove me to influence me back to Earth again. Supposing I had "kicked out" what monument should I have left to look at what improvement &c. Whereas I now have the House Horsebarn Corn House & other building to remember Father by, as well as the Rocks & Trees which he cultivated around &c. And no unprejudised person can say but that I have made vast improvement in an about the old Homestead, whether or not I get a compliment from brothers or sisters, while I live. I am satisfied that I have mad a Bulley effort at improvement with great oposition & ill luck.

Since I have been here, I have news of the death of my Spanish Fancy Buck which was worth something like \$500. Never mind that. I would sooner it be a Buck than one of my children.

The old cat was as smart as the D-I when I left home & whips the Dog & other cats goes over to Thos. & whips Janes Cat, then comes home & lays down on my bed. I would as soon loose my next best Buck, as her. Now she is the Old Cat that Eliza Shaw gave Katie, and when Katie left, she gave her to Mother, & you Know Father stuck to it that that old Cat was 80 years old & had been there as long as he had &c.

I left Katie with a good hired girl & a hired Man the best man I have had since I owned the place, and now I have two hired men, haying, both good. I have not yet sold my wool. have 3 years clipping on hand over 1500 lbs. My barn cost me twelve hundred dollars is the best in the country & most convenient. A cupola on the top & a deep cellar under the whole the same length of the old one and is insured for \$1200.-- & six feet wider 38 by 51 feet. the posts 3 feet longer then the old one, has two floors one over the other. the corner nearest to the Woodshed is litter nearer then where the "Little house" use to be &c. and south side of the new Barn runs down into the lower Orchard where the corn house stod. I had to move the old "Sheep shed" betwene the Old Barn & wood shed, & also move the Corn house to make room for the new Barn &c. Come and see it and if you like it I will sell it to you. we have a sow & two Pigs, a Bitch & one pup, one hen with one chicken (with prospect for more) a goose setting when I left on a second batch of eggs. Thunder killed the first brood as I had no lightening rod to the goose. Must close for want of Room. Please give my kind regards to brother Robert. Where is he now. write on Receipt of this. God bless you, Rhodolph. Write to me.

I have been very ill. Kidneys work too hard. Please excuse brevity. Can you, or are you coming to see us, this year? We are all well. Mrs. Badgerly lost her Husband a few weeks ago where we boarded last summer. She inquired particular for you. It is very

gay here now. Raining a little to day, first in a long time.

P.S. The price of Ellas Picture is \$10.00 and I cannot make them discount from it. Please tell me if the price is so understood. As I was not with you the last time you went to look at it.

Hall Letters 321. July 23, 1868; Rhodolph in Saratoga to Lucy in New Haven.

Dear Sister,

I suppose that I have been oweing you a specimen of my scribbling for several weeks but have nearly worked myself to death, & have had no time to write. When I arrived here, two weeks ago last Monday evening I was the nearest used up that I have been since I was in San Francisco winter before I came home and nearly the same condition. My urine was the color of Walnut catsoup very dark and my back, Oh! how it pained me. after 3 or 4 days drinking the Columbian Water here, became a better color, but had little globules of clotted blood in it &c. I am much better now, and gaining I feel. We have had it right Hot here, even the rich could not buy a streak of cool weather or Air, as there was none in the market, or to be found.

Katie tells me you made her a flying call not long since. What do you think of Our agricultural College. I suppose you have been in deep grief ever since, at the destruction of the old Rookery of a Barn, like brother Tom said as we were taking it down "he could cry" &c. Could not bare to lift a finger to help it down. ha! ha! isn't there Enough left to remember Father & Mother by? I think so quite enough such as it is. isn't this a world of progression, change. let it slide either forward or backward, let it keep moving, somehow or other, I almost regret, at times, that I ever bought the old Home. If I die tomorrow I shall leave something to show that I made an effort at improvement. Call it so or what you will, please. I have been a little in bad luck, to loose My \$200.-- fancy Buck but it better be him than one of My Children & c.

How are you all in the good city of Elms.all jolly I hope. I celebrated yesterday (my 44th birthday) on spring water, and wrote a letter to Sis Sarah. 366 Eleventh St. Washington D.C. wished her a better thing than spring water, to celebrate her birth day on &c. I rec'd. a paper from her, short time since marked 366 -- 11th Street. if she is in New Haven, tell her to send for my letter. or it will be returned here in 10 days & c.

D.C. is here. very usual health, improving I think. We play at Williams Colleg Commensment next week, two days, then return her again. don't feel suprised if I return to California next spring. Strong thoughts of it &c. It is quite gay here this season about 800 guests at our house now & still they come. Are you not coming to visit Saratoga this season. Why can't you ever make it convenient to visit the old Home while I am ther. I was there much of the time the past Spring, untill last of June. You might know by the manifest destruction there, &c. Please give love to Sis Jeffers & Family Aunt & cousin. Pinch Annie & Dollie for Rhodolph, kind comps. to brothers Saml. & Alvah. believe me as formerly, ever truly yours, with a belief that we are in the enjoyments, of all this world we really deserve. Our actions will be the best prayers for their continuance. Please Write on Receipt. Rhodolph.

Hall Letters 323. Nov. 14, 1868; Rhodolph in New London to Lucy in New Haven.

Dear Sister,

I write to tell you that we played here last night. I did not know of it in time to notify you of the fact. We play tonight (Saturday) at Norwich, and are to return here Monday & repeat our Concert here Monday night in the Lawrence Hall, next door to Metropolitan Hotel.

Should be most happy to see you, & Sis Mary on Monday evening here at the concert. I should be happy also to visit New Haven, but expect to repeat our concert at Norwich on Tuesday next. So you see I should have but an hour or two to spend with you if I were to come, but should come, had I the \$100. to pay you, but I left Lyme last Wednesday A.M. and the several little bills there came so near "strapping" me that I shall prevail on your indulgence to wait a little longer. However, if circumstances are such that you can not come Monday eve I may take the night train after concert here and so give you an early waking, on Tuesday morning but in such case, will be obliged to leave in time to reach Norwich in time for concert Tuesday evening. I commensed a short engagement with the Filomeno Troupe Thursday at \$60 per week. -- too good to last long I fear. It will not be improbable if D.C. & wife myself & Camelia Urso, (the renowned Lady violinist) sail for California in last of January. Contract is allready wating my Sig. Healths are all that is pending. Left all comfortable at Lyme, except Kate never was so feble. Wm. Davison is taking care of my stock untill April 1st. I hope to return the \$100 in a few weeks &c.

With a hope of seeing you soon. love to all the friends. God bless you.
Rhodolph Hall. Excuse great haste.

P.S. I forgot to say our company contemplate visiting New-Haven & Hartford in a few weeks. R.H.

Hall Letters 324. February 19, 1869; Rhodolph in Amsterdam, N.Y. to Lucy in New Haven.

Dear Sister,

I have been threatning to scribe a line to you, for a long time, but could not get a moment for so doing and now have to take time that I ought to be asleep. At last we are westward bound, -- (for California, may be) but accidents and the eliments will decide that. -- So far we have quite as good success as we could reasonably expect. We left Boston the 8th ins. (week ago last Monday) the first 6 nights viz Lowell, Fitchburg, Keene, Claremont, Rutland Vt. & North Adams Mass. our gross receipts were \$1320.00. This week has not been as good for several reasons. So far this week Monday, were at Pitsfield Mass. Tuesday Poughkeeps N.Y. Troy, Schenactada and here -- tomorrow night at Rome N.Y. (Saturday) We contemplate making the trip to Cal. & back by the 1st of July and hope with health & good luck to make the trip overland. &c. We have a pretty big contract with Urso and hope to make something handsome out of it. I am equal Partner with D.C. although the printing does not so indicate, nor does it suit me just now, but will soon be set at rights or there will be a "h-l of arow" -- I settled up the most of my bills Boston & New Hampshire and intended to send you the \$100 and interest from Troy had this week been as good as last, for us &c. I have not had to borow any money, and the thing is well runing now. Nor have I had to sell any bonds as yet. But should you be in actual want of what is due you I will send it on receipt of a line of say so. I intend to forward you the first hundred dividend by Express &c. which will be very soon I trust, before we arrive at Buffalo &c -- we shall be at Oswego N.Y. in a week from this time or about a week, and as we have Cousins near there, I thought you were in communication with them. I have forgotten their names & residence but believe they live a few miles from Oswego. Now if you will remind them of our coming we will be glad to see them & pass them to our concert &c. and without a doubt it would be a favor to them if you would notify them immediately.

We are at Utica N.Y. 22nd ins. at Syracuse N.Y. the 24th (Wednesday next) and soon after at Oswego. We shall see our cousin, (likely,) at Auburn. I should like very much to hear from you all at Syracuse 24th ins. should you get this in time, but if not, please write me at Rochester N.Y. -- shall be there in about 10 days -- direct if you please, Rhodolph Hall of "Halls" Boston Concert Co. Rochester N. Y. (or if to Syracuse N.Y. I shall leave word with P.M. to forward to me &c.) D.C. says he don't know as he has any special word to send he is side of me, writing to his other half, or more.

Give my lively regards to the girls (young Ladies I suppose by this time) also brotherly Love, to sisters & brothers not forgetting the same bountifull share to yourself. tell Sarah to write me at Rochester & I will answer. is she with you now? love to Aunt Lydia -- will send her a present if we succede.

D.C.s health, I think is improving rapidly. I can see better complexion and getting more flesh allready &c.

Remember us kindly to all of the Friends. We are truly on the Rail Road every day, and who know but by railroad speed to our long home. but we have a fond hope that we may all meet again at Saratoga next August or some where in N.E. again. God bless

you. Rhodolph (in haste.

Hall Letters 325. Sept. 7, 1869; Rhodolph in Bellows Falls, Vt. to Sarah in Boston.

Dear Sister,

Your favor of July 29th came safely to me at Saratoga. There was so much of it, & so blindly written that I have not found it all out yet, but will have you tell it to me when we meet, if we are ever permitted to meet again. I have been very buisey the past 9 weeks, or since the 12th of June. My health is not at all good this summer, but I get little or no sympathy on that account. The watter has done me no good at Saratoga this season. I have done the best I could, with the little vitality which I have had. My Kidneys are troublilng me more then ever, and I have but little hopes of their ever being any better. but must thake cold shoulders of this life the best I can &c. We left Saratoga this morning, D.C. is on his way to Boston. I have to remain here overnight, and shall go to Lyme tomorow. The Ladies you mentioned in your letter. did not make themselves known to us at Saratoga, (if they came there), or I should have been glad to have shown them some attention &c. D.C. has taken an engagement on the Bristol line of Steamers, Long I. Sound, for the next 2 months, commence next week. 2 Bands of 11 men in each. I should like to take charge of one of them if I felt well enough, as he doubtless would like to have me. I hope that after a weeks rest with some of my old Cider will help me to feel better even if no better, as the old cider has allways done my Kidneys more good than anything I have ever taken. I think that D.C. or no living being knows how I realy am, or how I suffer. My appetite has not failed much yet. When it does, I am a goner sure.

Can you not come to Lyme and make us a visit, and take a look at the improvements or if not improvements, Changes. We will do all in our power to make it pleasant for you &c.

The car left back at Whitehall, N.Y. today had my box of Instruments in it. I am in hopes to get my Box by tonights Express, tho, I am feeling anxious about it.

I am happy to hear of Roberts success, for he is truly deserving of luck by this time.

Please give him my best wishes &c. Also remember me kindly to all your Friends.
(Excuse bad writing haste &c.)

As ever Truly yours, Rhodolph.

Hall Letters 326. Feb. 18, 1870; Lucy in New Haven to Sarah in Washington, D.C.

Dear Sis Sarah:

Imagine me sitting in your chair in your favorite corner. Have just completed most of my hard work for the day: -- having baked 5 pies -- (1 custard -- 2 apple -- 1 blackberry - 1 blackberry and apple together -- 2 plates biscuits -- and 4 platters cookies) and have some plain doughnuts ready to fry. (Wish you & R. were here to help eat them) So my baking, washing and ironing are done for the week. Mrs. Smith (colored) came Monday and washed. She had a heavy load -- but I told her as it was not a drying day if she would wash them & put them to soak I would put them out the first fair day which was Wed. So I put them out and it took me 2 hours. (wringing & all) -- and yesterday (Thursday) she came and ironed. I told her how a colored girl in W. wanted to come home with me &c. and worked for \$5 per month which I think made her do more & complain less. She would not like to have me get a girl I know by her goodness of late. I told her all about the colored people in W. -- After putting out my clothes Wed. I went to see Dr. F. but he was not at home having just gone. S. told me his hours were from 2 to 5 -- but instead from 1 to 3.

My feet have troubled me since I came home & taking off boots & putting on slippers -- it is like parting hair in a new place -- They pain me standing on them. I took some Mandrake since & they are not so bad. I have felt better today. I thought I would ask Dr. Foote's advice about matters. I meant to go today but it has rained all day and the girls had one session. They are now cracking nuts (L.B. & L.J.) and Annie is writing. It is now near 5 o'clock and Ducky is singing away -- she has not sung much since I came home, has been sick -- Laid an egg & had a bowel complaint -- was so weak would pitch off her perch and act so funny & strain. We thought she had broken an egg, but I gave her cracker & she soon got over it & this morning she had another egg, a smaller one. She was so unwell. I did not think best to put them together -- and now I do not for I am sure I cannot take the required care of her as I now have it all to do. L.B. has been real good to look after them but she has not been regular & has not the time. I must now go and fry my cakes and resume the rest till another time. I have written to W. Lucas this P.M. too.

(7 1/2 o'clock) Have fried a peck of cakes (real good) & baked apples (S. bought another bbl. yesterday -- russets) nice ones -- and a peck popcorn and have got work done up and am now ready to write again. S. sits reading -- so are Annie S. & L.B. -- Dolly is playing the piano and I am seated as before -- Should like to see you and Amanda tonight -- mind the pages -- 3d comes next.

I had a letter from Jane last Sat. filled with her usual quantity of news. Said she and T. had an invite to Hannibal's to celebrate Jeffers' birthday but could not get a team, so did not go -- N., Wm, Albert & Frank were there. That she was going that P.M. to Uncle Wm's to meet the same crowd. That Manly Cutting was better, so he did not have watchers now. -- She had a letter from Henry Burrison - he enquired for you -- wanted you to write him. --

I had a letter from N. this morning -- she had received my letter Sat. night was very thankful for the money. -- Said Jeffers and Mary were there last week but had gone to

the old place to keep house till Kate returns -- Mrs. W. being sick had gone to her friends to be taken care of. -- (Sunday eve 20th) On returning from Dr. Foote's yesterday to get medicine, found Kate here, she having come on from N.Y. -- She went to Philadelphia & visited her sister and expected us there to visit her sister. This eve [Horace] and [Hiram] came in and stopped an hour. [Horace] had thought to go to N.Y. tonight by boat but it is storming (rain) so hard he concluded he should not go. -- The family are all well. -- Kate thinks of going to B. Wed. to meet R. on her way to Lyme.

Neither Mary nor Ellen have been in since my return. I called there with S. one eve and M. told me E. was afraid she had got started again. I have not yet been to see aunt L. but intend to go the first chance. The weather has not been favorable since my return. I have been quite lonely, without you, since my return.

Tell Amanda I would like to sit beside her & have a chat. I sent her a Mag. yesterday containing some Valentines for the children. There is a Miss Hinman lecturing at Loomis' Hall on spiritualism. I intended to have gone tonight, but for the rain & company. I wish I had Amanda's colored girl to help me. Cannot you & A. break in another and let me have her? Feel around & see & find what she would charge per month to come. I do not suppose S. would favor the plan, but I think I must have some one if my limbs do not improve soon. I do not however want to get away A's help unless she can get another to suit as well. I hope my medicine (powders) will help me. The Dr. told me to come again in 10 days if they did not help me. He was very pleasant enquired for you. Said he was going to W. this Spring. I told him your address & asked him to call & see you & he thought he would. He thought a Southern Trip would improve my health.

It is raining, pouring, now. We had lightning & thunder Friday night. I have written to Lucy M. since my return, but have heard nothing from her. wonder if she is mad that I sent her that Valentine! (I'll bet!) I am seated in the kitchen -- Kate occupies your chair, reading "Meadow Brook" -- L.B. & Annie are in the other room writing. S. & Dolly are in bed, it being after 10 o'clock. Kate tells me R. starts tomorrow for a place near Bangor, Me. to play with the Band and stops till Wednesday, when she intends to meet him in Boston. Kate is somewhat uneasy about home since she has learned that Mrs. Whipple has left. She says Wilson is at Demicks or Moreys -- she thinks at the latter place as he always stays there. But I think at D's as he & wife have gone to Nashua & Boston on a visit.

I hope you will take pattern by me, and take a big sheet and fill it out with a letter, You having more time than I do.

It is uncertain about my having a girl, so you must use discretion and not commit yourself nor me by making a binding bargain for Hester (provided she will come) till you hear from me again. S. would have a word to send if he knew I am writing -- but I shall be ready to write again by the time he is.

Give many kind regards to Robt. The friends look at me in astonishment when I tell them of Robt's Inventions. I am glad the noteables are looking & examining the things (Big Things) and hope the next thing I hear will be a big sale and the piles of money come tumbling in to his pockets. Love to Amanda -- Tell her I am waiting patiently for

that promised letter. I am much pleased with the Valentine from the children and hope they will be pleased with mine to them. L.B. and Annie say give her my Love -- so here you have it. The Birds would have a love song to sing you but they are asleep, I having covered them up. Then old gray cat just pounced on my letter -- as much as to say "send mine"! The clock is now chiming 11 and I must go to bed as I have got to get up in the morning.

Hoping to hear from you soon I remain

Your loving sis, Lucie

Hall Letters 326.1W. May 22, 1870; Rhodolph in Poughkeepsie, N.Y. to Lucy in New Haven.

Dear Sister,

I have procrastinated a little in writing you, which I hope you will excuse, by reflecting that my time must be somewhat occupied at a salary of \$75 per week, and expences. I had excellent success at Brooklyn, N.Y. the two weeks I played there. Received only 11 Encore there, one of which was a call out the 3d time, or a double encore. Have since concerted one week in N.J. and the past week at principal cities on the Hudson. Viz.: last Monday at Yonkers; Tuesday "Sing Sing"; Wednesday at Matawan; Thursday at Newburg; Friday, Rheinbeck; and last evening here - Poughkeepsie; tomorrow, Monday, at Hudson, Tuesday & Wednesday at Albany, N.Y. and further do not know as yet, not having heard from our Agent; but suppose he is working up Troy for next Friday & Saturday. Was intending to fill Thursday night at Saratoga, but we scarcely know as we shall travel after Troy or Albany, as Peaks are threatening a vacation & have been since we could not get the concert room in Phila. at the time they wanted. It was the intention to play 2 weeks or more in Philadelphia, but could not get the room.

I should have sent you the balance due you on the note, but was to favor the Family by waiting until we got back to Boston where they have deposits on account of doing a slim business. So I have not rec'd my salary except for every day pocket such as washing & Tobacco, postage, &c. I hope, and know, you will not be distressed for so small amount, at all events without notifying me. It will be the first bill I settle when I do get my salary. The Peaks are worth some 40,000 dollars or upwards in Real estate.

We shall doubtless concert out the coming week, and if you write me on receipt of this direct to Albany, N.Y. and it will be forwarded to me wherever I go. &c.

Extend my Kind regards to all Friends.

In great Haste will refer you to Second Epistle of John, 12th verse.

"Allegro Vivace" yours, Rhodolph

P.S. I take some pride in having a written contract for the largest Salary of any American Instrumentalist of my kind, that has yet lived. How is that for high? I am offered an interest in the name of "Peak Family Bell Ringers" if I will accept & remain with them. They have always supported an unblemished reputation, both as pleasing & respectable Artists &c, &c.

What do you think of it? Say.

Hall Letters 327. Aug. 7, 1870; Rhodolph in Eaton Rapids, Michigan to Samuel & Lucy in New Haven.

Dear Brother,

I have no news of importance at this moment to communicate. The weather has "pissed a bed," out here of late & has troubled the farmers muchly in harvesting their wheat. Their corn however is looking the best it ever has, oats also. Wheat grown in the shock, they say. The corn looks as though it might grow all winter. I should think from the immense timber lands & Swamps of Mich. there might be fortune made in raising Frogs & Owls. However this is an immense Country and improveing rapidly, new Rail roads & plenty of Black Walnut timber to freight them &c.

I should be please to look at your Otophraph once me. pleas scratch a line, if you have time, if not scratch away for the Dimes. Respectfully, Rhodolph.

P.S. Inclosed find a little note of importance, please hand to your old gall that she may answer without delay &c. as ever, Excuse haste, Rhodolph Hall

Dear Sis,

When I saw you, handed you
\$20.--
\$20.-- sent by first P.O. Draft
\$28.-- sent by second or last before this
\$29.-- P.O. Draft herein inclosed and
\$ 3.-- in bills inclosed here which is
\$100.-- Amount of the face of the Note.

Please to figure up the interest, which will be a sum for you in deuodecimal Fractions, and send with the note to me at Grand Haven Mich. We are to be there over Sunday & leave there Monday 15th ins. Please excuse brevity. great haste &c. We are all well, (as usual) and doing good business since we came to Mich. I was at Lyme 3 weeks ago last Friday, left all well that day. No letters or news of home. has reached me yet since that time &c. I expect letters at Charlotte where we go tomorow. I am not determined on traveling any definite length of time. Give my love to all Friends. Write me without delay, direct to Grand Haven Mich. best wishes. Rhodolph.

Hall Letters 328. Aug. 30, 1870; Rhodolph in Council Bluffs, Iowa to Lucy in New Haven.

Dear Sis,

In my last, I sent you a P.O. draft for \$29 and \$3 in Greenbacks which in all makes \$100 the face of the note which I gave you. I requested you to send it to me at Grand Rapids Mich. with the amt. of interest ciphered up that I might have it all settled in case I get scalped &c. I suppose my not receiving a word or Note from you is because of your happy absence at Lyme, as I am informed by Madam you made her a nice call, &c. I truly hope you had a nice visit, and approve of my best efforts to improve the Old "Hermitage" &c. Say! haven't we done well for Children that didn't know what they wanted to do &c. Oh! No!! We an't done with old sods yet, provided I am spared to return with scalp. I think the Red Skinned Cusses wont care for my scalp as I have so little hair on it, &c.

We leave for another 700 miles westward in the morning for Denver, Colorado where they tell me that a white man's life isn't worth a cent if he gets 5 miles from the town with a strong guard. As I have no guard, I shant get that far out &c. We play at Scheanne, Wioming, there branch from the U.P.R.R. to Denver, Col. near Pikes Peak, there we play Sept. 5th, 6th & 7th. That is the terminus of our western tour this time. We leave Denver on the 8th of Sept. for a tour Eastward via the Southern Pacific R.R. to Kansas City, Levenworth, &c. so through Mo. Expect, and determined to take Thanksgiving dinner at Hall's 4 Corners, Lyme N.H.

Our deserving prayers accordingly &c. I pause for a Schmoke.

We played 3 nights & one P.M. at Omaha Neb. and spent Sunday there; a beautiful location for a City, but very dull just now. Reminds me of Springfield, Mass. the lay of the land rises from the River about the same, &c. We take the cars for the west there tomorow P.M.

Hopeing this will find you all enjoying your just due amount of Food, raiment & Sleep. Must close as mail closes in 30 mts. &c. Kindest remembrances to all who remember. I am as ever not very well, but not dangerously ill, &c. Yours Fraternaly, Rhodolph.

P.S. Please write me without delay to Denver Col. care of Bell Ringers &c. R.H. [Menu from the Pacific House, Council Bluffs, Iowa, included]

Hall Letters 329. Oct. 2, 1870; Rhodolph in Nebraska City, Neb. to Lucy in New Haven.

Dear Sister,

I received your favor at Denver Col. since which we have been traveling up & down, over & around among the mountains of Colorado, where abounds silver & gold and riches untold for mortals to mould, by which are bought and sold, many a precious soul in "Agitato."

I should have written you sooner, but I expected to have been to see you by this moment, but have extended my engagement another two weeks, one of which is just now through. Next Sat. night, Oct. 8th closes my engagement with the "Bell Ringers" and I intend to face East by the first conveyance then.

We have been doing a good business. Well we ought to, for we have been where Concert Co.s never went before, I think among the Miners of Col. I am rather tired of traveling and require rest & shall go to Lyme to take a rest after the coming week (if no accident occurs to me in reaching there, &c.) I will go via Chicago & Cleveland as I must look after the taxes on my building lots at Cleveland, &c. We played at Lincoln, Neb. last Wednesday & Thursday nights. Was introduced to the Governor, Butler of Neb. and played him a tune by especial request from him. He examined my cornet, and attended our concert -- had a full house &c. I have nothing of interest to tell you. Am as well as might be expected for one that makes as much bloody urine as I do, &c. I hope you are all quite well. I would send a money order in this, but as I am so soon coming will save my 20 cts fee, and make you wait for the \$10 untill I see you, &c. Inclosed find the odd \$2.59 as the amount of interest (as you so kindly computed it) is \$12.59. I don't like to risk too much in a letter so far, &c.

Make my kind remembrance to Sis Sarah when you write to her &c. Excuse great haste, mistakes, &c.

Love to the Neices

Tell Sam'l to take a drink --"a little good gin wont hurt any man."

Hopeing a continuance of all Earthly blessings, am as ever truly yours, Rhodolph.

P.S. We play at Lawrence, Kansas Oct. 8th Shall leave for home from there I expect. R.H.
[Peak Bell Ringers program enclosed, also a menu from the American House, Denver]

Hall Letters 331. Oct. 24, 1870; Rhodolph in Paola, Kansas to Lucy in New Haven.

Dear Sister,

I wrote you some weeks since, and inclosed \$2.50 (from Levenworth I think) of the \$12.54 interest due you on the note. Did you get the two.50? I could not tell you at the time where to write to me as I was expecting to have returned before this time, &c. There is now \$10.09 due you (if you rec'd the \$2.50 all safe), Five of which I will inclose in this, leaving \$5.09 your due. Please write to me on receipt of this, to St. Louis, Mo. -- care of "Peak Bell Ringers" -- as the Co. are returning East and the Band have got through on the Steamers for Fisk. (though I do not intend to play with the Band anymore.) I have thought it wise to hang on to this thing untill I get nearer home &c. though my fare was to be paid home when I decided to leave, but I am doing well and giving Satisfaction and I might want to travel again, and as they thought it hard of me to leave them I concluded to tough it a little longer. I have to play pretty hard, some of it I enjoy, but such dam bad weather. Mud of the strongest & deepest kind, and exceeding poor Hotells. I often wish for a good square New England Dinner such as You & Katie can put on the Board & I have promised Katie to indulge in a "Fowl Stomach" with her on Thanksgiving day. We are now headed Eastward thank fortune, and in 3 weeks expect to be in Pennsylvania and are to make for the interior of Pen. rapidly now. We have been doing a fine business in Kansas for two or more weeks. We left "Fort Scott" yesterday. Tomorrow we pass through Kansas City to Independence, Mo. thence to Sedalia, Jefferson City, so on to St. Louis. Your letter will reach me there, or will be forwarded in case we have left there &c. I have not done so well any season since I left California as this summer. I rec'd a line from Katie at Fort Scott saying she had caried out my plan by having an Orchard set out in the old North lot. You know it was so rough it was good for that only. I have a heavy wall now acrost the lower side so as to pasture pigs as it is now wall on 4 sides, &c. so the cusses cant get out.

I was told that I made scores of friends at Ft. Scott. I recive Boquets & Encores frequently. I have made a new discovery & will surprise my rival Cornet players next year. I only want a little rest & time to practice with an Instrument expressly &c. I am a little jaged out by so much constant travel & blowing but will soon be home & take a rest &c. Make my love to Neices & others.

Please write &c. God bless you. Rhodolph. P.S. I pause to take a smoke. Now 12 o'clock night. We leave at 7 A.M. for Mo. Please answer on receipt of this to St. Louis, Mo. [Peak Bell Ringers program enclosed]

Hall Letters 332. Oct. 26, 1870; Rhodolph in Independence, Mo. to Lucy in New Haven.

Dear Sister,

(12 hours later an 60 miles nearer N.Y.) We left Paola, Kan. via Kansas City at 7 A.M. As there was no Mail train untill 5 hours after we left, I brought my Letter along with me, &c.

Here at Independence we play in the "Court House" but our Agent had to get out a Petetion and I have seen it. There are about 30 signers of the best citizens in the City. So we expect a Fashionable & full house here tonight. &c.

Here I am in the same town, stoping at the same Hotel (by the same name that we stoped at in June, 1848. 22 years ago when D.C. & I were with Kendall & the Spaldings North American Circus. Many of those old friends are laid quietly away now, and lots of times I have run the narow chances &c.

Some of the same People here, I am told, that were then, but not acquainted. It is a beautifull town &c.

Write me at St. Louis on receipt of this please. R. [Peak Bell Ringers program enclosed]

Hall Letters 333. November 18, 1870; Rhodolph in Young America, Ill. to Lucy in New Haven.

Dear Sis Lucie,

Your favor of Nov. 1st to St. Louis I rec'd this A.M. as we passed through Burlington, Iowa. I am truly glad to hear from you that you are all in so prosperous a condition &c. Also that you rec'd my two last hasty remarks, containing the \$7.50 (the two &c.) I shall inclose the remainder viz. \$5.09 in this which foots up the interest according to figures as well as Principal, I suppose. Now as for the "Bonus" please name it, or I shall have to keep in mind that I stand ready to do you a similar kindness should you make a move in any speculation and want a loan &c.

We are now at Young America, Ill., 12 miles east of Burlington, Iowa on the R.R. to Chicago. We played last night at Fairfield, Iowa -- 50 miles west of Burlington in Iowa. Left there at 4 o'clock this morning, rather early. We passed through St. Louis, Mo. about 10 days since, but your letter had gone to Dubuque Iowa to find me, but we have not been there yet. So sent for our mails which were rec'd this morning. &c. It is rather agrevating to wait so long for letters. I also rec'd one from Katie this morning which was mailed at Lyme Oct. 25th. It has been to Fort Scott, Kas, St. Louis, & Dubuque, Iowa thence to Burlington Ia. where I rec'd it with yours. &c. She is well for her. Dry as "Cod Fish" at Lyme she says. No rains up to Oct. 25th.

P.M. Nov 18th. I have had to pause for Rehersal & to play in front of the Hall, Brass Band &c, Dinner & a Smoke. My letters must be very dry, as I can think of no news. We play tomorow night at Burlington Ia. (Saturday evening Nov. 19th). I have decided to take the Express train of cars there at 11 1/2 o'clock evening for the East via Chicago. Shall leave Chicago about 5 P.M. Sunday for Cleveland, O. thare stop over one train to look after the taxes on my building lots and hope & pray that I may have a safe journey and arrive at Lyme about Wednesday of next week so as to take Thanksgiving at the Old Homestead or what is known as "Halls' four Corners" Lyme N.H. as I promised Katie all summer, that I would indulge in a "Fowl Stomach" with her on that eventfull day, although I have not yet heard what date the N.H. Thanksgiving is to be &c, but I suppose about Thursday 24th. I shall get a through ticket by cars and expect to go through to Boston if I have time, otherwise will lodge at Springfield or Bellows Falls Vt. if I should switch off at Schenactada & go via Rutland Vt. but that will depend on the time I get along thare &c. If I can come from Cleveland through N.Y. City on a through ticket & have time, will stop over one train and take a smoke with you & c. But D.C. wrote me that Edna & children were to sail for Italy on the 10th ins. and I wrote him to go with me to Lyme to Thanksgiving. But I suppose that business will prevent him so doing very likely. So Katie & I will have to Dine alone that day, perhaps. I am getting to the bottom of my paper. Please give my Love to Sis Sarah if with you when you get this. Tell her to come to Lyme & take Thanksgiving with me & Katie. I will meet her at White River Junction Vt. either Wednesday or Thursday 23d or 24th ins. Tell her to write to me at North Thetford, Vt. as I shall leave the cars at North Thetford and will wait for mail to be distributed there &c. Tell Sarah to write me on receipt of this. I would write her today, but have not time &c.

Love to all. God Bless you. R.H.

Hall Letters 335. Mar. 6, 1871; Rhodolph in Boston to Lucy in New Haven.

Dear Sister,

Having leisure enough to take breath, I take in one, and breath a word to you, thinking that I am in your debt, a line, &c. I have no startling news to buzz about however. I left our old rambling place, week ago today. am glad to say the sick ones are recovering moderately. Thos. & Jane have had a blue time, the past two months or more, which you have learned of, I suppose. He had got so as to walk over to call on his nearest neighbor, Mrs. R., who by the way has shared all her little delicacies with them, with a spirit of a good semeritan. Such as Fresh Fish, Oysters, Clams, Oranges, Lemons, Gelies, &c. &c. Not excepting a flow of Medford, (which she has 40 gallons of, or did have. That vaporates rapidly, you know in a climate like Lyme. double piano on the rum, as I do not sell it. Got it to help keep my 16 bbls. of cider sweet, and keep cherries from moulding next summer, &c. How are your neighbors. As for Friends, I never had so many in all my life. Well, Katie was anything but well. Neuralige, I think, in her jaw, thought her wisdom grinder was ulcerating at the root, giving her sever pain in her Ear & throat. I fear it will produce Misscariage, as I can't get Lemons enough for her, which she has a handsome hankering for, &c. I applied myself as good naturedly, as my nature would permit, as nurce & Doctor, applying Hops, new Medford & vinegar poltice, hot, which would relieve her for a time, so as to get asleep, after well tired out, about 2 o'clock in the night. I was only home from Friday P.M. till Monday A.M. She was anything but well when I left, but she insisted on my going, as we want the dimes to spend in improvements, &c., as she says. She came near leaving this winter to pay some of our visits, due our Relatives, but wisely concluded to wait untill a little warmer so her watter works won't freez up, and that reminds me that every thing has gone luckey with us except water works Froze up. with plenty of watter in my two new wells, which was dam agrevating. had to draw water from the old Brook for Stock, and get it out of the Brook with a Sponge, as that contrary to nature Froze at the botom first, &c. Never was known such a winters drouth an so infernal cold.

I have done some hard Ball business this winter, all the way from Boston to Belfast, Me. to St. Johnsbury & Burlington, Vt. long routes. about 5 trips to Vermont and one more to go in April. 3 nights now engaged, down in Maine, &c. We have "stinted" ourselves to get the Rum bbl. empty to put cider in next Fall. think we will do it easy, but I should dearly like to have your valuable assistance in the vaporation of it. Please make it your business to report, (at no distant date,) at the old Homestead where we can all drink and smoke together. I have a Box of Tobacco, (have used up one) and I have yet a few Cubans & Nickeraguaws left, &c. We will have a Thanksgiving any time when you will be there. We have a plenty of every thing but Friends & Money. They go together you know.

I believe you and I are all even on the borrowed money. it is possible that I may want another favor of the same kind, when my hired man's time is out. I shall get along, if I am not disappointed where it is due me. I had rather hire for a few months, then to sell my Bonds. Suppose you won't refuse, in case I get in a tight place? Make my lively regards to brother Sam'l, and the young ladies, Louise & Dollie. Accept my fervent & Frequent meditations.

God bless you. Rhodolph.

Please write to me. Direct to 103 Court St., Boston, Mass. My kidneys have come near flooring me this winter. Water stops intirely sometimes, &c. My love to Sis Sarah. Bring her with you. --With a standing invitation to my Funeral, if not sooner.

[Letter written on stationery letterhead of Hall & Quinby, Musical Instrument Makers]

Hall Letters 337. May 27, 1872; Rhodolph in Fort Wayne, Ind. to Lucy in New Haven.

Dear Sis,

Your favor of May 1st to Youngstown, O. was forwarded to Cleveland. I was glad to learn you were all so comfortable, &c. I should have answered sooner, but have been very much drifted about, and very busy. I have little, or no news to write. Will say, I am pretty Kinkey for me. the [Porus] plaster has braced or stuck me up very cleverly. it still hangs by one edge. I put it on at Meadville, Pa. four weeks, or more. Shall try another before I venture to embrace Mrs. R. as I shall expect she will excite "hard feelings" which are weakening, you know. -- Our Co. are having full houses now, and give best of satisfaction. Close our Season June 29th at Niles, Mich. The country looks beautiful here. Much heavy timber along this Ft. Wayne Rail Road, and lots of Log Houses. seems to be a new country, to other parts of Ohio, &c. I intend playing with D.C. (should he want me) on the 4th of July -- Just to see the Boys & earn a \$20.-- Spot, &c. My vacation will be 6 weeks or more, if I should return with the Co. (which is uncertain). The Peaks are too dam slack, to suit me, in evry thing. -- With your permission I will inclose a line to Katie in this, as I expect she & Mrs. G. and two nephews will make you a little visit or call &c. this week according as I learn by Katie's letter. Please extend, or distribut, lots of Love to Sisters, Nieces, Brothers, all, &c. We play at Jackson, Mich. next Saturday, June 1st. there over Sunday. Please give me a News there, as soon as you receive this. and believe me the same brother "Red hot" Rhodolph. [Enclosed a map of the Chicago, Rock Island and Pacific R.R. Line & Connections.]

Hall Letters 339. 1873; Rhodolph in Boston to Lucy in New Haven.

Dear Sis,

You may wonder that I have not mentioned more of D.C. & Wife. I have not seen him since 2 weeks last Sunday, and then but little. So I do not know but little. But we have a right to surmise whare we are unable to surmount. I inquired a few days since, of Quinby how he was, &c. He says "D.C. is a little mixed at present." That he did not think that D.C. & Wife had spent a night under the same roof, since she returned, and that he & others thought that she was & had treated him meaner then H--l, &c. &c. -- This will be no greater surprise to you, then it has been to me. I give you this, that you may not be at all surprised at whatever you may hear in future, &c. Whether she disapproves of his mode of living, buying houses, and a woman to rent them of him. or whether he disapproves of her isceolating herself & children from him so long, is the "mixture," I suppose. But If people skin & "cook their own skunks," they will know better where the stinkbag lays, & c. It may be all cooked up, and relised betwene them, and none of our dish.

He sold the Lindon House, 10 days ago or so for \$3200.-- to J. Pushee's Wife, the Mesmeric Lady, for her son & his wife, &c.

D. told me, when I last saw him, that he some thought spending the winter in Italy. I have seen her but once, and then but a few moments at shop. She said she had not then decided positively whether she should go back to Florence, or not.

Were you Sisters to make him a call here, Friday (or Sunday, am not sure, however as to Sunday.) That it would please & cheer him. At least should guess it would. Not that I should not like & enjoy your seeing me also. -- but I am well now & stood severe trials, through, pretty stoutly, I think. And my riley watter is beginning to settle to mud.

As before, sincere regards to all Friends. Please burn this & say nothing to anyone of what is here a conjecture. &c.

Letters 340-373 (March 15, 1873 to December 3, 1896)

Hall Letters 340. March 15, 1873; Rhodolph in Boston to Lucy in New Haven.

Dear Sister,

I am engaged at Taunton, Mass. 17th ins. and at Haverhill, Mass. 23rd ins. I shall go to Lyme, 24th.-- Return Apr.1st. When is brother Morey a going to Lyme?

Tell S.: I called at National Hotel, for her picture; but it could not be found, & c. If I ever get a week's leisure, I will pop in to see you. Regards to Ridgeway when you see her.

Love to all the Nieces & Friends. Please write, at your early convenience. Yours Truly,
R.

Hall Letters 341. Apr. 9, 1873; D.C. in Paris, France to Lucy in New Haven.

My Dear Sister,

To let you know that among all the sights and excitements of this life, one cannot forget the scenes of home and early childhood, though mid pleasures and palaces we may roam, still there is no place like the one of our early playdays.

I am on the way for America once more, and hope to Hail Columbia about the first of May. I left my little family in Florence on the 31st of March by way of Genova & Geneva to this place where I arrived on Sunday 2 1/2 A.M. The two oldest girls will remain in the School for two or three years longer. Edna and the baba will go to London for the Summer. Edna will study Oratorio, and perhaps sing in a few concerts if an opportunity presents itself.

Miss Barton who went to Italy with them has been singing in opera very successfully in Warsaw, Poland, the past Winter. They are all well and getting along nicely, and I want them to stay long enough to be satisfied, and finish their studies. They allready now speak the Italian & French like natives. They are now at the German, with Music, and a review of the other studies. I have had a very pleasant winter considering.

Grand Hotel. Paris. Apr. 10th.

Well I left the old Fortress of Strassburg last night at 5 o'clock P.M., and found myself here at 7 A.M., and will try to get this mailed. The old "Astronomical Clock" (I should call it The Bibleothical clock). At 12 it operates wonders. And as old as it is, a vast crowd of people assemble to see the old man (Time) with his sythe on one shoulder or hand, and hammer in the other, strike the bell, The little angel turn the Hour Glass, The 12 Apostles pass Jesus the Christ, Who raises his hand as if to bless them as they bow to him on their way; and on another tower, not far distant, the cock flaps his wings and crows (as natral as life) three times, at that time Peter is supposed to deny his Master. I stoped three days to see this wonderful cathedral & clock with the rest immense city Fortification which was taken from the Germans by the old Napoleon long ago. And

retaken two years since. I think it one of the greatest sights of all Europe. The Tower of this Cathedral is 490 feet in high -- with thousands of Statues & Statuettes &c. &c. -- I send inclosed a Phot. of its front. You will see only one of the Bell towers is finished. This was hit with cannon balls & shells, some 70 or 80 times during the bombardment -- The Dutch feel awful pompous at capturing the place again. I shall go from here to Brussels, Belgium and from there to London, and sail from Liverpool on the 23rd inst. for New York in the Steemship "Navada" [Gioran] Line -- It is quite cold here in Paris, and it snowed on Sunday and Tuesday at Strassburg. On the 3rd inst. we had Strawberries which grew in the open air of Genowa, the trees all leaved, and the wood branches of the Horse Chestnut (by measurement) had grown 12 inches.

All well and hope this will find you the same. Give regards to all the friends and believe me as ever, Your Brother, D.C. Hall

[On stationery of the A. Goebel Hotel, Strassburg]

Hall Letters 342. May 17, 1873; Rhodolph in Philadelphia to Lucy in New Haven.

Dear Sister,

I am just through my Solo, which was vocie. Encored at the Arch St. Theatre &c. I found Brother G. by going to P.O. -- at a new residence. Oakland Terace Orthodox St. Frankford, on Saturday 5 P.M. Surprised & rejoiced to see me, as are the Co. also.

Be so kind as to forw'd by mail as soon as possible the Piano part (I left by mistake) care of Bell Ringers Arch St. Theatre it is "Serenata Veneziana" and oblige. Will write again, Truly, Rhodolph

Hall Letters 374W. June 17, [probably 1873]; Rhodolph on Steamer "Bristol", N.Y. to Lucy in New Haven.

Dear Sister,

We commensed our sea voyages Sunday night. I left Lyme, Sat. night 12 o'clock. All their usual health. &c.

I write to ask if you know of a Girl, from 40 to 60 years of age, that will make her vacation and keep house, (or just let the House keep her), for about two or 3 weeks for me? I shall have only one man & Boy, besides myself. I intend to vacate there during Haying, about 2 weeks or so. Yourself, Sis Morey, or M. Davison could spend a pleasant 2 weeks, as no washing, -- plenty cherries &c. besides what I shall import. Wines &c.

Please write to me, here, soon. D.C. is well. On steamer as last year.

Compliments to all.

As ever,
R. H.

Hall Letters 343. Sept. 22, 1873; Rhodolph in Boston to Sarah in Ferry Village, Cape Elizabeth, Maine.

Dear Sister,

I sent you a "Postal Card" more than a week since, with what little news it would contain, promising to write to you again soon, &c. We closed our term on the Steamers, last week Tuesday A.M. 15th ins. a little earlier than we expected or earlier than usual, on account, I suppose, of cool weather drove people home sooner &c.

Having an engagement with the "Metropolitan" Band for the Inauguration of Soldiers Monument at Lynn on Wednesday P.M. and an Exhibition at the Temple in the evening, and playing as a Substitute at Navy Yard Charlestown 3 P.M.s last week kept me from going to Lyme, and this week D.C. & Band of 20 pieces go to Manchester, N.H. Wednesday & Thursday with Pulaski Guards of So. Boston. I am excused, to go with "Shaumut" Band on an Excursion 4 days with Fire Co. to Montreal Q.E. I leave with them Wednesday, and return as far as White River Junction Vt. & shall leave them there & proceed to Lyme, Saturday Evening if my "gun holds on to the lock" &c. Lavalley went to Montreal last week to attend to his Law Suit and is there yet. I expect to see him &c. and get me some under clothes, Boots, &c. for the winter, as I can get them cheaper & better in Canada I think. I am rooming at Thompsons No. 5 Hanover St. Room No. 38 with a young man that Traveled with me.

Well, I notified the Friends by Card, at New-Haven, of our last trip to New-York, and a week ago yesterday morning, to our surprise Wm. Antie, Johnson, Lucie, Willson & wife & Johnsons two girls & two Nephews brothers sawyer, only 10 in all came on board the Bristol. I hapened to have Medford enough to give them all several drinks, we then took them to Cosmopolitan Dining Rooms to dinner, thence by Horse Cars to the Central Park, there chartered a two horse open carry all, and all rode through the Park. Visited the Zoological Garden to see the Monkeys & Elephant &c. &c. from thence walked through Madison Square, Union Park, went throug Stewarts "Up Town Store," and there took the cars to Old City Hall, passing the Tombs, showing them the "Mansion" where Stokes lives, and then to the "Belmont Hotel" to Tea. in the evening all except (Antie & L. Willson) went to the Atlantic Garden in the evening. Antie & Lucie were tired & too lame to go further and had seen more than they thought they could remember befor Tea &c. though come to think the Park (Central) and Atlantic Garden Zoological &c. were the extent of Sunday & Evening. The other Squares, Stewarts, Tombs &c. were the Mondays travel, with Wallocks & Opera House. Dined at Belmont Monday. We saw them on the New-Haven Steamer Monday at 3 o'clock P.M. all Delighted and more to, with their visit, and we often thought and spoke, how we wished you were with us to enjoy it all with us &c. I bought a small Basket of Peaches & sent to M. Davison to let her & children know I did not forget her, also one Basket for them to wet their mouth with on their way home. We sailed an hour & a half later Monday P.M. for Boston, last trip &c. Now I have given you all the particulars, don't you think so? D.C. is right well, and I am so much better than when I last saw you, no bloody watter, not much of any back ache, so that I hardly know myself. Are you not coming on soon, and how would you like to go to Lyme with me? have you heard from Maning lately, we hear nothing yet. Write soon, best regards to Robert, as ever,
Rhodolph

Tell Robert to come with you to Lyme, it will be good for him and pleasant there this season of year. Only think that lot of Old Cider at Lyme & won't I soon have some New Cider when I get there.

[Concert Program of Hall's Brass Band & Orchestra on the Steamer Bristol, Fall River Line, enclosed]

Hall Letters 345. Dec. 16, 1873; Rhodolph in Boston to Lucy in New Haven.

Dear Sister,

I left all well at Lyme, 3d ins. with 15 inches snow and extreamly cold, gloomy for me, intend to go again Jan. 2d. Tell S. that a week ago yesterday our former Landlady Mrs. Thompson was 1 1/4 hour under the knife of Dr. Bixby, who took from her a Tumor (& its apendages) to the weight of 50 lbs. She lived til Thursday P.M. was buried yesterday.

D.C. & Wife are well, last news. Business looks a little more hopefull. Sat. I had an aplication to travel with Madam "Urso" waiting a reply to my terms. If "Uncle Sam" can't aford better Card to write on I'll go and tell my news myself.

With Love to all, please write to me, as ever, (10 o'clock P.M.), R. Hall

Letters 346. Aug. 21, 1874; Rhodolph in Boston to Lucy in Lyme.

Dear Sister,

I arrived safe (Slow but sure) at 1/4 to 9 this A.M. Drowsed a little in cars, as I couldn't help it. Had I not been in much better health, than in former years, I could not have accomplished what I did. I feel greatly draged out, though my mind is greatly relieved. When I get rested, shall feel like myself again. I regrett much that I could not make your call more joyous, but you, I know share some of the sorows which have been heaped on me, &c. Please extend my love and best wishes to all the Brothers, Sisters, & Neices. Hoping you a safe and pleasant Journey home. Believe Fondly & Truly yours,
Rhodolph

D.C. joins in kind regards also. He's well.

Hall Letters 347. Dec. 18, 1874; Rhodolph in West Hartford, to Lucy in New Haven.

Dear Sister,

I ordered my mail to your care. Please forward any, if there be immediately on receipt of this, to Westfield, Mass. care of Bell Ringers. We are there over Sunday. (Tomorrow and next day.) Please speak to a good Piano accompanist for my solos for Jan. 1st -- (one clarinet & one Echo Cornet.)

Co. all well & in good keeping with the weather -- very cool & windy. in haste.
Fervently yours, love to all. Rhodolph.

Hall Letters 347.1W. Dec. 22, 1874; Rhodolph in Naugatuck, Conn. to Lucy in New Haven.

Dear Sister,

We are at Ansonia, Conn. (Thursday 24th ins). Will you please write to me there. Also send me any letters you may have forwarded to your care &c. Send me a newspaper.

We are all well & will see you Jan. 1. I wish you all a Merry Christmas &c.

Love to the Friends. (Write on Receipt of this.) Yours truly, R.H.

Hall Letters 347.2W. May 26, 1875; Rhodolph in Trenton, N.J. to Lucy in New Haven.

Dear Sister,

I received the Music, all right, at Phila. Am greatly obliged &c. I expect to be in New Haven next Monday P.M. or by Boat, as the Co. have two weeks Engagement in N.Y. City during which time I think of going to Lyme &c.

All well at Frankford. I stoped with them durin Philad. engagement.

Love to all. As ever, Truly yours. Rhodolph

Hall Letters 348. Sept. 14, 1875; Rhodolph in New York to Lucy in New Haven.

Dear Sister,

I have delayed writing longer then I intended when I left New Haven, but please excuse, as I have had no news to write. &c. -- I thought you might like to know about how long we were to be on the Boats, so pen a line to you. It is D.C.'s enterprise, you know, and I am only on to accomodate him. Substitute for, or in place of a man, who Gilmore hired away &c. Consequently I am not so proud or happy in my present Society as I would have been had I the Leadership, &c. &c. -- The contract was out yesterday, but the Manager requested that the Bands remain on Steamers through this week &c. I shall be here Saturday for last trip of the "Providence" (Music) and D. C. on "Bristol" will be here Friday & Sunday; returning Monday 5 P.M. as there is no boat Sunday, now &c.

I give you this as I understand it. Supposing that D.C. might have so much on his mind as to forget his sisters, as well as the interests of other relatives &c.

I wish we were on the same steamer, so in case you come here, could see us both at the same time. -- but in case you can only be here to see one of us, be sure & see him. -- as I visited you so recently, (and can again) while he talks of going to Europe, -- (with his wife I suppose) and it might be for a long time ere you could see him again, you know.

Now before I forget it, I left my Razor and Strop on the shelf under the glass in your Bathroom. I have had to borow, or go to Barbers since. -- Will you bring or send it at any convenience. Just interupted by Old "Dan Sympson", the vetran Drummer. He wishes to be remembered to Mrs. Spear. He lives in So. Boston (is uncle to Mr. Benett) & is going with us tonight &c. (his Companion Fifer "Sy Smith" died since 17th June, after blowing fife 70 years &c. Please give my Love to the Girls, Johnson, Sarah & brother Morey's family. Much & true Love for yourself. Rhodolph. Shall go to Lyme next week some time &c. It is possible that we may have to remain on Steamer another week after this, but very uncertain &c. [Enclosed is a newspaper advertisement of the Programme being played by Hall's Celebrated Brass Band and Orchestra on the Steamer "Providence".]

Hall Letters 349. Oct. 6, 1875; D.C. in Boston to Lucy in New Haven.

Dear Sister,

I am to be in N.Y. 9th inst. and would like to have you send to the Belmont Hotel, Fulton St. the name and Number of the astrologer who so correctly answered those questions when you was in N.Y. saw him in 4th Av. I may call on him again if time, &c.

Edna sailed for Europe on the 25th ult. Our business matters for which she came were amicably adjusted and settled. I am completing my 4th House in Stamford Pl. All well. Regards to all yours, &c. D.C.

[Written on "Hall & Quinby, Manufacturers of Rotary Valve Musical Instruments" letterhead.]

Hall Letters 349.1W. Sept. 23, 1876; Notes and response by Rhodolph concerning presentation of a gold medal with diamond cluster from the band on the steamer "Providence."

Presentation

The many friends of Mr. Rhodolph Hall, the "Gold Cornet Player," will be gratified to learn of a gift to him of a gold medal, set with diamonds, by members of the band of which he has been band master, on the Sound steamer "Providence" for the past season. On one side of the medal are handsomely engraved the names of the band, twelve in number, and on the other side, "Rhodolphus Hall - Band Master - Steamer Providence - Season of 1876," around a cluster of thirteen diamonds in the center; each member being represented by a diamond. The medal is of fine gold and the diamonds of the "first water." The presentation was made a pleasant "restative" in the program on board the boat Saturday evening Sept. 23rd in the following manner:

(Mr. Brown on behalf of the Band)

Mr. Hall Sir on account of your abilities as a Musician and Gentleman; we, the members of the band, on this Steamer Providence think it not unfit to present you with a slight token of our esteem and regard, and in after years, when wearing this, you can be assured you have the respect and affectionate regard of one and all the members of this band, and we all hope you may live many years to enjoy the possession of it.

(Rhodolph in Responce)

Ladies & Gentlemen, of me, you don't expect a speech; old time permits no proclamation. For all or each I would not preach though here be met a congregation. My life has seemed a game of Euchre and clubs my trump. In this present game hearts are felt and diamonds dealt. You "order me up," what for! a speech? "A lone hand," in which you'll be Euchered I am sure; though you draw out my only trump, my heart and "left bower." Ye "Hemen" have here employed a goldsmith, had I the gifts a Moore, Burns, Byron or Shakspeare I'd not be "Long-fellow" enough to reach this subject and do it justice.

Of all the incidents and experiences of an eventfull life, this is one of the most pleasurable: I have traveled among the mountains of Wyoming and Colorado -- not in the "Custer" dy of the Sioux nor molested by the modoes or highwaymen of the Siera Nevadas; have been thoroughly shaken but not taken by the earthquakes of California; for days and nights, passed "cool cumfort" among the icebergs in the Atlantic; for weeks have I watched over the sick and dying at sea and buried personal friends on the islands of the ocean. I have contributed to the pleasure of people in two Kingdoms, three Republics and seven Provinces and, notwithstanding the applause and encores of the multitude, I must here acknowledge this to be one of the proudest moments of my life. This gift, not won by Raffle or Rivalry, makes it doubly dear to me. You tender me "gold" gentlemen, in return, I can only offer you "Notes," They may be at a discount, and let those discount them who can. This heft of gold you place here, gentlemen does not exceed the weight of gratitude, that will rest on my soul till the day of my death. In conclusion, permit me to say, that

I accept this endearing gift
From hands, ever faithfull,
With heart trully greatfull
Ye apostolic 12

Amidst "soundings" we are sailing
Band a playing -- Brown time-beater,
Steam a hissing -- wind a wailing,
And among us have no Peter.

Most "Providential" have we moved
In clear and stormy weather,
Harmoniously as here is proved,
Our Band has played together.

Praised be our grand Sound Steamer,
Sound are they from "Stack" to "Hull."
They gently bear us by the "gleamers,"
Through the "Races" past the "Gull."

Our officers are gentlemen through,
From the first to last;
"Shaw"! all like him have not a flaw,
The firemen, too, I'd give a "Blast"!

Now, may our "Horns" long be chanted,
Over land and over sea,
Where Abraham has kindly "granted"
That our human race be free.

And let us blow and hope and trust on,
Though we may be blown ashore.
Untill we reach that "upper saloon"
Nor Providence endanger more.

Rhodolph.

Hall Letters 350. Nov. 16, 1877; Rhodolph in Boston to Lucy in New Haven.

Dear Sister L,

I am sorry to have delayed writing you so long. Imperitive perplexities some, -- (many times with me) predominate, &c.

Mr. E. A. Andrea will present this hasty scribble to you, fearing that you might not remember him.

He is in persuit of something to do in Music line, and not sufficiently "flush" to go to Hotel & desires to preserve your acquaintance, &c.

He was with Mrs. Daniels (now dead). Was with me a year ago this summer, and if you can keep him for two or three days, I will see you satisfied at an early date.

I arrived from Lyme yesterday -- all well as usual -- will make you a call very soon -- perhaps day after thanksgiving.

We play at Westfield, Mass. (near west of Springfield on Thanksgiving night, and unless important business, close follows. Will come to see you, &c.

Love to all, Rhodolph.

Hall Letters 351. Feb. 10, 1878; Rhodolph in Boston to Sarah in New Haven.

Dear Sister,

I have been trying to get time to write to you for sometime, but for a week past have been sick in bed from a terrible cold I caught one week ago last night while playing at the Skating Rink. Have been threatened with Tifoid, Neumonia, or Yellow Fever, had a misscariage I think, though my "courses" have not got regular yet.

We were down East at Watterville Skowhegan, Gardiner, & Richmond the following dates. Viz., Jan. 22d, 23d, 24th & 25th. We had 8 or more young coubles from Bodenham attended our Concert at Richmond and returned to Bodenham in the night train which we took for Boston. I saw a young man that knew Robert and lived in four miles of him. He told me Robert was healthy and talked of going to Virginia to spend the winter, and didn't know but that he had then gone, &c. Told me Robert was reading and studying very much, and they thought, perhaps too much, &c.

We had a very prosperous trip of 4 nights although extreemly cold, and I cought a bad cold that trip, to, and just got over it, as I got a worse one at the Rink here in Boston. but I am today able to walk out and feel so much better, that I am hopefull, &c.

How are you all, and what are you chewing now? Spruce Gum, Rosin or India Ruber? My knife is dull from cutting Tobacco to smoke. Have done the most begarly business I ever done in the Music business any winter since I've been in it, though have paid my own expences; also for my Hay & Grain I bought at Auction and \$25 of the \$53 on my Lyme Taxes by selling a Cow and Calf by her side. Also have paid my Cleveland Taxes for the year 1877. D.C. is very well, and borrowed the last \$75 I had (a few days since) to pay duties on imported Instruments. So he is allways happy when I am near him to help him play, and have money to loan him, &c.

I am tonight giving our terms to go again to East Liverpool, Ohio for two Concerts. We play at Westfield, again Mass. for the Whip makers 22nd ins. I shan't dare to run down to see you so soon again for fear I may never get away, or the people will take me for a resident of N.H. and Tax me there, &c. We also play here for the annual Ball of the Hackmen at Horticultural Hall Boston. They allways have a very Fine Company, and very dressey, &c.

I had a small engagement to play in the Country the night of the big "Snow Storm" and had to ride 4 miles in an open wagon after the dance fasing the storm. I luckely lived through it. I have not been at Lyme since I saw you, and only heard by requests for money to pay bills, &c. they are well for all that I care, tho.

Give my love to Lucie, Antie, the Girls and "Boys". Tell Antie, wished many times, that I had that "syrip" while I've been suffering with colds, &c. as I fealt that it with gin might have saved me great distress, &c. &c. Tell her to send it by Express to Westfield, Mass. 22nd ins in care of "Halls Band" and I will be looking for it, &c. And put in a line of all the news. Tell Lucie I have worked 2 days on the "Hand Irons" and they look splendid since cleaned with Muriatic Asid & Polished.

Hopefull of a continuance of Divine blessings (or any other man), am as ever,
Rhodolph.

Hall Letters 352. Feb 16, 1878; Rhodolph in Boston to Lucy in New Haven.

Dear Sister,

Your card favor came to hand this P.M. I have just taken Tea with D.C. & consulted with him with regard to giving you a lift. He is anxious to bring the 7 pieces, the same as are engaged at Westfield. but the Fare by cars from Westfield to New Haven is \$1.75 each, each way; for the 7 would be \$24.50 down and back to Springfield, &c.

D.C. would like to bring Mrs. Annie Granger Dow, but her lowest terms are \$25 and expences, and only that low price for us, &c. As her salery in Church here is twelve of fifteen per Sunday. And D.C. wants you to give us an estimate of how much you think a Sunday night concert would foot up. I will tell you if a Sunday night concert could be made to pay about \$75 over expences or rent of Hall and printing. We could volunteer for your Saturday night anniversary and would like to do it.

D.C. is engaged tonight, conducting (rehearsing a rehearsal) for concert at the Boylston Museum tomorow (Sunday) night, in place of their Leader who is sick in Fever or he would write to you. But you will get this in time for contemplation, and Night Dispatch to us. Same proposition, or a sugestion. One reason D.C. prefers bringin the Band with us is the dread of playing without accompanymnt or being to the bother of rehearsing with a strange Pianist.

I will extinguish my influence for D.C. to come with me, and play with or without accompanymnt Sat. night 23rd tho "Billious" outside Music business. I have to contend and imagine the best I can, -- meet the Right on demand, imagine I am harmonious with "Gideons Band".

Please Dispatch on receipt, Night Dispatch, at my expence. Could you offer enough to cover expences, we will bring the Band, 7 pieces. Will bring D.C. (if I can) at any rate.

Highest regard to Sam'l & Bill; break me a tender bread to the Nieces, to you 3 B-flat Sisters let me like a Duck. Quack for Geeses.
Rhodolph.

Hall Letters 353. May 4, 1878; Thomas Hall in Boston to Lucy in New Haven.

Dear Sister & all the Friends,

I have seated myself to write you a few lines to let you know how & where I am. We arrived here safe about eleven o'clock. Found R. had left for home at Lyme the afternoon before. Have been well as usual. Since I left your home have been around & seen about all the friends. They are mostly in their usual health. Abby is rather slim; under the Dr.'s care; thinks she is some better & is full of courage. Have been out to the Highlands to see Mrs. Gardner & Geo. family. They were all well. George has opened a fish market & is doing well. His Mother lives with him. Mary & boy is with her Husband at Host Lyon Station Colorado.

Called at Mr. Hastings. Stopt overnight. They live in the same house they used to. Mrs. Hastings looks thin & poor. Says her health is not good. Millie is at home & does most of the house work. George & family board with them, & Joseph & family are in South Greenwich, R.I. teaching Music. On my way back, called to see Mrs. Crane & she had gone in town; called again about a week after & they had moved the day before--most of their things--out on the Highlands. She called here yesterday & D.C. & I had left 15 minutes before for Waltham to see the wach Factory. David has been very busy making up his bands for the Boats & Saratoga. Pretty well thronged with men & letters. Has engaged most of his quota. Rec'd one from Daisy. They were all well when she wrote. I have called on Mason Culver twice & him here once. He has been sick a year or more--some better now, so he can get about a little & take the air. He is feeble in body & I guess in purse. I rec'd a letter from Jane a few days since. Says they were well, all, & that R. was keeping house alone & that his help John G. & Boys were ploughing & tearing up things scientifically. Said that Harris Persons was dead. His wife went visiting to John Nelson's Saturday afternoon. Said he would come after he had done his chores, but did not come. Sent boy over after him & found him hung in his barn with webin--dead. Said it was thought he must have been taken sudenly crazy.

I would like to stop in & see you all very much & would like to hear how Moody gets along. The papers here have nothing to say of him here -- that is the daylies. Rhodolph has had Maggie & her mother there & taken up his carpets & swept & cleaned the parlor, bedrooms & c. Called again & dusted some of Kate's things with camphor. I called on Mr. Taylor's folks. They were well; complain about the hard times. I guess they feel it some. She does her own work with five in a family, one or two boarders. Charley French is there in the store. Sarah will know him. I have seen Mr. Washburn's folks. They are all smart, but Christiana. She is slim. Just tottle about & seems to have lost her mind in some things. Almira lives nearby them. She is better now than I have seen her for ten years. She has all she can do. Gets ten Dollars & half per week. I have written about all I can think of & am getting about to bottom of page. Think now I shall go home next week & would like to hear from you then if not before. Thos. Hall
I suppose the sisters will all note this, of course.

Hall Letters 353.1W. June 12, 1878. Rhodolph in Boston to Lucy in New Haven.

Dear Sister,

I have not had time, or felt like writing, or should have done so before. I had good luck in taking the round from your place to Boston. Plenty of time in N.Y. to get over to the Boat, &c. The Officers were glad to see me on the "Providence", and treated me to supper & State Room. I found D.C. glad to see me & played with the Band May 30th though I felt badly with slow fever. Got some more cold on Boat and Face bad, we only had to play under cover, no marching at "Boat Race at Silver Lake Grove &c. Got along easy.

I go to Lyme by noon train today. John is to meet me at Canaan at 6 o'clock this evening a nice ride in Buggy, &c. D.C. is well. We go on Steamers 23d ins. as far as we have orders now. The cold weather has kept us off, I suppose or should have been there before now.

I herewith forward to you the Pedigree or history of Hall Family as I took it from Father's lips, and I think a great deal of it on that account. So do not loose it, as I suppose you will copy it. Correct and make the necessary improvements, appendages &c, &c as you know there has been some events since it was written, such as Deaths, births, presentations of Gold Instruments & Medals &c.

Well, I am short of time to get what I wish to take with me, and get to Depot &c. So you will excuse this brief, hasty scribble. Pardon for not writing before. My will good, but procrastinated not being healthy, &c. But I am feeling free of Pain or distress every way now, only little depressed Finantially.

I am going to Lyme on buiss: My sheep are to be sheared Friday & am to see to storage of wool, if I can't sell it. &c.

With much love to all.

Am yours particularly.

Rhodolph.

Letters 356. Sept. 10, 1878; Sarah in Boston to Lucy in New Haven.

Dear Sis Lu,

We arrived here a little past 9 A.M. Sunday morn after a tiresome journey. D.C. took a sleeping car at Troy. I cautioned him not to undress altogether -- it being very cool in the cars. When we left Saratoga at 10 minutes past 12 & he had not laid down to rest all day Saturday, being such a hard day for him. When he arrived he went out & saw opened a quart of the best & largest oysters he could get & came home with them & I picked out a dozen. He ate them & they sat well & I gave him a lunch of them, & they all sat well, or they did not come back. He is distressed almost at anything he eats. I think it is because he has so much to do & to think of. He was visited by all the band from the Bristol, as it was in Sunday & is today. He took cold in the sleeping cars & I tried to swet him Sunday night by giving him catnip, mullin & Sugar-tea warm as he could drink, & hot flatirons to his feet. He was suffering dreadfully when Rhodolph came in just now. But he drank the tea after he came in & is so he can talk now. R. says tell Lu I am tough, & sends love. I am trying for D.C. to go on in the [Steamer] this week, but he thinks he cannot bear it this week. I have been opening & reading to him as many as a dozen & half of letters & one from Mr. C. [Nym] in Italy. & one from Edna in Florence & I had read Mr. C's first & several from other places before reading the other foreign ones. I did not notice the outside & cut the end & opened & began reading. I says this is from Italy, & looking over the 5 pages, I says it is from E.A.H. & she had no address. At the commenced it on business of the children staying. That they must &c. Very impudent to say the least. D.C., after R. left at 3 P.M., by persuading a time went with me to his chamber & I opened the bed, he got in & I put both hands on his stomach & he became a little easier, so much so he went to sleep & breathed hard & I kept them on as long as I could & drew them away eesie & he awoke. I went to his feet & found them cold. I went down 3 flights & put on 2 flat irons & he is now coloring while I am writing in a hurry to get it in the Post before dark.

Mrs. Gray's sister in the other house was in last eve after D.C. was in bed. Said she read of Albert Pushee's death in a Boston paper from Lyme, N.H. The cause was a [felber] on his hand & things put on to scatter it, & forced the poison into his blood & caused his death. D.C. & R. felt very bad. I did not tell D.C. of what Mrs. C. read in the paper, but R. came in & said he met some one that had a letter from Lyme & said Albert Pushee was dead & buried. Perhaps you know of it. I think I shall persuad D.C. to go on to N.Y. on Steamer the last of this week or the first of next. I wish he was there now. I am agoing to keep him in bed if possible, he is so much better.

I tell him I will take his unanswered letters to New Haven & you will help him answer them &c. I told him before he laid down I was writing you at [add tring] & that I told you I was persuading him to go on & leave everything. He says tell them I will come sometime. R. wanted us to go tonight -- said it was a beautiful night lost. It is full moon tomorrow night & I should like to go when it is full, it is so much more pleasant. The little girl has come in to take this to the post & if you cannot read it, I will when I come. If you could take a look in & see me when I have written you would not wonder. With love to all. Sarah

Hall Letters 357. Oct. 28, 1878; D.C. in Lyme to Lucy in New Haven.

Dear Sister

Yours at hand. I am glad you are all well and enjoying life with company and fishing &c. &c.

I arrived here last Wednesday in one of the D__ndest rain and wind storms ever gotten up for any ones especial reception. All it lacked to make it complete was a good cannonade of Thunder.

The wether is not yet the most plesant for hunting. (Therefore there is not much real fun for a ramrod to a Brich Loader.) I think Mrs. Jeffers is looking better than I have seen her for many years and she stops off quite smart. Marinda & Hannibal have gone to Bristol for a family gathering. The others are all well as usual. Jane son's tell them she is churning today and has brot one mess of cream. By the way I claim to lessen the amt. of that part of her labours with bake potatoes and sweet apples. I am living up to Mrs. Lockwoods prescription and directions

Rhodolph is to return on Thursday next so he writes &c. I shall drop in upon you again one of these days. Hoping this will find you all well, I remain, Yours truly, D. C. Hall
P.S. Shall return to Boston next Monday. D.C.

Hall Letters 358. Feb. 6, 1880; D.C. in Boston to Sarah in Washington.

Dear Sarah,

I again send the note. Was in hopes to have made "it" less but impossible at this time.

Shall go again to Lyme in the morning. The Old Lady has moved to Hotel Boylston with the children and furniture. Teaching has also began. I have not moved yet. All well.

Return note in time for the Bank.

Please state in your letter the least amt. you will take for your intrest in the old homestead if I try to pay it off once more. Yours in haste, D.C. Hall

Hall Letters 360. Oct. 12, 1880; Lucy in Lyme to Sarah in Washington.

Dr. Sis Sarah,

I write this A.M. to let you know that we are all well "and hope you are enjoying the same blessing." I sent a Postal Friday also wrote a letter Sat. to S which you probably got Monday morn. Alfred D. called to see me Sat. morn. also John D. called in P.M. Then Hannibal & the 2 girls called in P.M. It seems N. came home Thursday and I did not know it when I wrote. I do not see but he looks as well as ever, though he is called sick. He came home because Sallie wrote him that her mother was sick -- also her Grandfather was sick or worse. It is now Tuesday & I have not been down in the hollow. N. asked me when I was coming & I said any time when you will come for me. He did not set any time, but I expected him Sunday, as they would have no farming to do, but I have not seen any of him yet. We heard that they had given Jeffers an injection and conclude he is no worse. We heard that he lay kind of stupid -- conclude it is the effect of epidemic. I think it kind of queer that they do not send & let us know how he is for they have 5 horses.

We went over to Thomas' Sunday to a boiled dinner -- It was very nice: cabbage & beets, potatoes & hog of their own raising -- beside cream biscuits.

Yesterday Dollie & I, for amusement, went fishing -- I am supplying us with hooks. We caught 4 trout, 2 good size. Should have caught more with good hooks. Pulled out several that we did not get. I wish you would tell S. to send me some small hooks in a letter, one of the slim bluefish hooks with some very small ones. We caught the 4 under the big elm in the meadow brook. N. says tell her we had trout & cream toast (cracker) for supper. It has been delightful weather here thus far. Rain is very much needed.

The water has given out this A.M. The well they do not use & have to go to the brook & spring for all the water now. The spring is as full as ever & the water is nice & cold. Lucie has come in and says "give my love to her & tell her I am going to ans. her letter when yours gets cold."

Rain is very much needed. We have had a sprinkling this morning & it is hoped that there will be some to fill the springs & streams. If S. is not inclined to send me some hooks, you get some of him & send me in a letter; you can stick them on the paper & they will not be noticed. I hope you are all well & do not miss us much. I do not know when D.C. is coming. T. thinks he will be along Wednesday. Hannibal had not seen him for 3 weeks, but he thought he would be here this week. Is Mary coming on? I have heard that Ellen's family has been exposed to [vanoloid] -- the reason she does not come just now. They had (LF) a letter from her to that effect. I think it queer that they do not come for me, but suppose they have a reasonable excuse. Jeffers may live along for some time yet, after getting so helpless. I write this against the chance of sending it. Don't know when I shall get a chance but run the risk. I meant to have brought the Truth Seekers since Sept. 1st. I think there was one or two when I left. Please send them or it with the last Saturday's issue. Thomas likes to read Bennett's letters. Dollie says send my love, so do I to all of you. Hope to hear from you all soon. So write soon to Your aff. Sis, Lucie.

Wed. 13th

I have not had a chance to send my letter to the P.O. so I will put on a postscript. Hannibal & his men (2) have come this morning to pick the apples & brought little Sallie & she tells us that Grandpa is so they took him out in the kitchen yesterday, but he was not dressed. That aunt Ellen came yesterday (Tuesday) came to the junction & staid over night & came up in the morning. She brought Charlie with her. Says (Ellen) says she has a bad cold & sore throat & she did not know but they would think she had the small pox or was coming down with it.

It did not rain but a splash yesterday. Joe is waiting for rain before washing. She has to bring all the water from the brook & spring to use. It is a very dry time & a very cold time this morning. I find my flannels just the thing though they were more than comfortable the day I went fishing. I wrote to you in the first part of my letter.

I hope you are all in good health and getting along nicely.

D.C. has not come yet -- I am informed that Mary told him she would take for share in R's estate \$8.00. What do you think of that? D.C. wrote to Thomas & asked him what he would take & T. made him about the same answer I did, but he did not ask N. or send her a letter about the settlement. The men are now carrying apples from the little orchard at the corner & they are so large & fine striped, red, they pick them. T. is going to making cider first as his apples are all ready to run in to the mill first. Would have done it before, but had no tub to put under to catch the cider, having used the old one for water, but H. has brought a hogshead to saw into two parts. It is pleasant today, but cool. I guess I will go fishing again. Dollie & Sallie are now going out foraging. D.C. brought a 1/2 bbl. mackerel in the summer & this morning a bbl. flour came -- H. brought out -- \$6.75 which L. bought Monday. The mackerel & cream is just what I like and Dollie too. I expected a letter from home yesterday but did not get one. Harris D. came out but did not bring one. Still there may be one there. Hope you will write soon to your aff. sis Lucie love to S. & [R.]

Hall Letters 361. May 30, 1881; Thomas in Lyme to Lucy in New Haven.

Dear Sis Lucy,

I rec'd a letter from you Sat. 28th, saying you wished to know my mind about the old homestead. I am sorry to think their is not more harmonious feelings with regard to it, & what is best. I am not able to tell you, but think better not be too hasty. Have a talk with D.C., look over his figures & see how they stand &c. I think you have right to call for them & see for yourself. He wrote me the deed was not recorded, nor would not be untill every heir was paid in full. About meeting him all together, you know how it has always been. About your letters being severe on D.C., I think it pretty plain talk, more so than I would like to have written to me. I would like to meet the heirs all together & agree to something that would be satisfactory to all, for I hate a broil in the family.

Nancy & Lucy are on the mend; Jane is rather slim with the distemper they all have. Call it the old fashion Influenzia.

Jane says she will write you when she gets better.

Old Mr. Marsall & Mrs. Luman Moody were burried last week.

I would like this matter of the heirs settled in some way satisfactory to all concerned. How to doe it without another string of expence, & then their will not be much to divide.

I would like to step in & see you all verry much. Hope I shall some time.

Jane sends her love & good wishes to you all with mine.

From your loveing Brother, Thomas.

Hall Letters 363. Nov. 18, 1881; D.C. in Boston to Sarah in Lyme.

Dear Sister Sarah,

Yours rec'd &c. The chique seems all O.K. And in time to answer. I have this day sent the carpet to Mary in Hannibal's care to No. Westford, Vt. It will be there tomorrow (Saturday) P.M train. I hope it will be satisfactory to Mary. It was the carpet on my room when you was here. And cost me over forty dollars when my family were in Erope. Has Nancy bought the horse? You must be having nice times in visiting the old friends &c, &c. All well. And with regards to all, I remain as ever, Yours truly, D.C.
[Letter written on concert program of Calixa Lavallee assisted by Miss Daisy Hall, mezzo-soprano, and others]

Hall Letters 364. Dec. 8, 1883; D.C. in Boston to Lucy in New Haven.

Dear Sister Lucy,

The genealogy of the Halls of New England has arrived. Have rec'd two for which I have paid (\$10) ten Dollars. I think you told me you wished of the books. Did they send you one? Or do you wish me to send you one of these?

Thomas is still here and I think much improved in his health. All the friends are as usual, well. Hope you the same. With regards to all, I remain,
Yours truly, D.C.
[Letter written on Hall's Boston Brass Band letterhead]

Hall Letters 366. Jan. 14, 1884; D.C. in Boston to Lucy in New Haven.

Dear Sister Lucy,

I rec'd yours with (\$5.00) five Dollars for "the Hall genealogy". I suppose you have, ere this, found out by whom and where we came as far as the the volume can indicate. If not I will give you the trace that I have studied out &c. -- Commence on Page 567 "Halls of Taunton"

(Family 1st) George 1st Hall 567 Paige "Halls of Taunton"
(" 4th) Samuel 2 " 569 " " " "
(" 18th) George 3 " 573 " " " "
(" 33rd) Thomas 4 " 579 " " " "
(" 67) Thomas 5 " 595 " " " "
(" 119) John 6th generation Hall 625 Paige "Halls of Taunton".

By this we are the 7th generation from George of the Halls of Taunton, Mass., emigrating from Devonshire, England in the year 1636 -- If you look over those pages above marked, you will see somethings, and names, which you may remember of having heard mention in childhood, &c, &c.

Thomas is yet here and appariently enjoying himself usually well. Daisy has gone traveling again with Curso for one hundred Dollars per week as I understand. All well with dull times and winter wether &c. Hoping this will find you all well, I remain,
Yours truly, D.C.

[Written on Hall's Boston Brass Band letterhead]

Hall Letters 367. Feb 5, 1888; D.C. in San Diego, Calif. to Lucy in New Haven.

My Dear Sister,

Lucy, I learned the sad news of Bro. Thomas death from my Wife by the letter written her by you.

I had been expecting such might happen knowing his feable condition for so long a time. Of course it is a common occurrence that people die. Still we hope to live and live on, but grim death is sure to overtake us all in the long run.

My health is good at present, with exception of a cold in the head, am quite well. I take it you are in communication with my Wife so know about them better than I can write.

I think am prospering in my business here as well as could be expected.

I have driven today (Sunday) a single team out to the El Cajon (Elcahone) Valey 40 miles. Sold 4 acres of my lot for double the amt. I paid less than one year ago &c. I bought 480 acres of "School land"; 160 of it was timber land about 290 miles northe of here; paid only \$1.70 per acre. I pay a small portion down, another part in 5 months, the bal. of 1.00 per acre can pay as long as I am mind to pay intrest at 7%. I am paying 7-10 & 12 pc. for money to do business with. Missed one of the old "Medelson Quintett Clube" his Wife & Bro. in law Geo. Christian of my band came out here with me. Since being here they have bot 55 building lots in the city -- one piece of 3 acres, another piece of 30 Acres; those acres they pay \$100 -- per acre. Beside this Meisel & Wife have bot two sections of School land 640 Acres each = 1280 &c.&c. I suppose Bro. Johnson will see that Thomas Hall's will will be carried out to the letter, will he not? By the way how far have you gone with record of my Life? There has nothing been said of late or since I sent to you my scrap books.

You remember the bargain for what you wer to do for the Watch &c. Said watch is in Waltham Mass. for cleaning. I sent it from here as it won't run.

It is my purpose to come East again this summer and finish my 20 years on the Fall River Line. Hoping this will reach you all safe and find you all well, and with kind regards to all the friends. Also tell Sarah I will write her soon. Believe me. Your Brother, D.C.

Hall Letters 368. Dec. 26, 1888; D.C. in San Diego to Lucy in New Haven.

Dear Sister Lucy,

I suppose the N.Y. Life Ins. Co. has written to you concerning the policy coming due the 1st of Jan. 1889 which you hold as collateral for a note of \$500 and interest of two years.

The N.Y.L. Ins. Co. will pay the same to you on the receipt of a certificate from a Physician that I am alive on the 31st day of Dec./88. It will take about seven days for said certificate to go from this place to Boston.

The Boston Agt. told me he would write you all directions about sending to them the policy &c. Now if you are not in great need of money and can let the note run for a longer term, it would be an accommodation to me, as I have got to raise money to pay for my share for an Engine and Machinery to work a Gold Mine up in Elsinore (this Co.) about 80 miles north of this place.

If you can't spare the money the bal. (over the note some \$150 or more) you can send to me in cheque. I have \$4000 in notes secured by mortgage 8% interest, but there is only \$1500 of the amt. due on Jan. 1st 89, and I expect difficulty in getting it as money is in demand at 12 percent with good security. If you can raise \$5000 and send me for investment in or on bonds or mortgages, I will invest it for you on long terms say 3 or 5 years at 10 percent good safe investments &c, &c.

As Susie has written about our loss of Little Bertha, I will only say it was a sad event, and so sudden. At breakfast she sat at the table and at 12 M. breathed her last.

Although she had been sick a great deal, and was very weak, yet we did not think it possible, her dropping out so soon. We can hardly realize the fact her having gone.

Jed was talking of coming to Cal. Has he got over the notion? I think can give him something in the way of a job when I or we get settled in bizz. at Elsinore.

Business is awfully dull in San Diego. The Boom of last year has left it with a fearful "Black Eye" (as they call it). Yet it is destined to be a great City and will continue to grow but not so fast as it has for the past three or four years.

Elsinore is one of the best and richest mineral districts in Southern Cal. It has gold, Silver, Tin, Coal, (the only coal mines in Cal.), Clay (for pottery), Marble, and Asbestos, beside the Hot Springs which was the first thing to mark the settlement of Elsinore, which is situated on the shore of a beautiful "Lake Elsinore" 7 miles long, 5 wide & 300 ft. in depth. Magnificent valley lands, and high mountain scenery, making it one of the most desirable localities in So. Cal. &c. &c.

It is our intention to go there and live as well as to do business in course of the season -- please ans. soon. Susie joins me in love to all the friends. Tell Sarah I will write her soon. And believe me as ever, Your Bro. D.C.

Hall Letters 369. Sept. 17, 1889; D.C. in New York to Lucy in New Haven.

Dear Sister Lucy,

I returned from Lyme yesterday morning where I have been preparing for the Stetson Trespass case. Court sets today. The case may come in three days and it may be a week. I am waiting for a dispatch to come &c. Lucy has written you about the Deed being Recorded (I told her I would drop you a line). Stetson talks big and threatens what he is going to do &c. &c.

Lucy has explained all that is necessary about the matter, and your ans. will relieve her mind and her mother's. All well as usual. In haste, yours D.C.

Hall Letters 370. Oct. 16, 1889; Wm. H. Dimick in Lyme to Lucy Johnson in New Haven.

Mrs. Johnson:

Yours of some days ago was received and have delayed answering to see what David was going to do about those Notes that he owes the Estate.

He has promised to pay me in full before he left for California again. If you should know of his leaving please let me know at once as I shall be obliged to take some action in the matter.

I have been to see the Judge in regards to Rhodolph's Estate and he says he will give me letters of Administorship for any one we may select. I don't wish to do any thing untill I can close up the other Notes. Thus I am ready to try for a settlement on the other. Yours truly, Wm. H. Dimick

Hall Letters 370.1W. May 15, 1894; Copy of letter from Lucy Johnson in New Haven to Chapman & Lang, Lawyers in Orford, N.H.

In 1878, Rhodolph Hall of Lyme, N.H. died leaving an estate to be divided among his brothers and sisters.

The 1st thing done by the heirs was to give D. C. Hall, a brother, Rhodolph's gold cornet. Then they gave L. F. Johnson, a sister, a book Hogarth. They then drew up a paper, the heirs signing it, asking D. C. Hall & Samuel Johnson, of New Haven, Conn. to act as administrators of the estate. The latter declined, saying that one could do all the business & D. C. Hall assumed all the responsibilities of Administrator.

He used money on hand & sold stock and farm utensils to pay the debts of the estate.

He sold land in Cleveland, O. & divided the amount among the heirs, giving each \$188.44.

In the meantime, he run the farm, charging a high figure for time & expenses.

About 1881 - 3 years, the heirs becoming dissatisfied at the long delay, and wishing him to possess the Homestead and thus keep it in the family name offered it to him cheap. I told him he might have my share for \$200.00. He said he would give me \$150.00, congratulating me if I accepted it. I should then have for my share about \$350.00, the rest of the heirs the same amount. I wrote him my price was \$200.00. He wrote me he would give me \$200.00 if I would return the book "Hogarth". I wrote him that I would not return the book, nor would I take less than \$200.00 for my share in the farm. He did not accept my proposal by letter, but came in person to New Haven, bringing a deed, all made out, agreeing to pay each of the heirs \$200.00 for his or her share in Rhodolph Hall's farm.

My sister Mrs. Spear & myself went before a magistrate & signed the deed agreeing to sell the share of each for the sum of \$200.00 to D. C. Hall.

Afterwards I was told by Thomas Hall, an heir, that the deed was not to be put on record till the heirs were paid.

L. F. Johnson and S. S. Spear signed Deed of Homestead Feb. 4th, 1881. Signed Deed of Cleveland property, March 7, 1881.

Received check each of Cleveland property of \$188.44 April 9th, 1881.

Feb. 7, 1892, D. C. Hall sent L. F. Johnson a promissory note of \$11.56 which I sent back.

Hall Letters 372. Aug. 10, 1894; Annie S. Johnson in New Haven to Mr. Lang in Orford, N.H.

Mr. Lang: Dear Sir,

You will perhaps be rather surprised at my writing again but I have a little store of questions that I would like to ask.

First, is it possible to charge interest on personal property? (like that book found in our possession) I should not much mind giving up that book but interest would be adding insult to injury.

Would you allow it to be supposed that you obtained those letters when you were in New Haven? You might have had them and did obtain the most important.

I have been told that my uncle considered that the western heir ought to be satisfied with less than the rest because her father left Lyme owing my grandfather \$600; as a matter of fact she obtained \$200 where some others only received \$188.

If you decide not to take Miss Morey's deposition will you let her know the fact as it will save her worrying about the matter and she has plenty of things to trouble her.
Yours truly, Annie S. Johnson.

Hall Letters 371. Aug. 17, 1894; Paul Lang in Orford N.H. to Annie S. Johnson in New Haven.

My Dear Miss Johnson,

Yours at hand and I take pleasure in replying to your inquiries. Interest could not be charged if claim was made for the book itself. If made for damages, then it could. He has no claim whatever upon that book and cannot get it away from you or make you pay for it. His letters to your mother show that when he bought her interest, the book was not included. Why do you not do as I advised you to when you were in Lyme? And that would be the end of the matter. I do not believe that you or your mother would give that book up to D.C. Hall because of the satisfaction it would be to him for the value of two such books. And further, he has no legal or equitable claim to it in anyway whatever. It does not matter when it is supposed I obtained the letters. I would not advise any equivocation about it for it is entirely immaterial. If they suppose I obtained them when I was there, let it go so, but of course do not say so.

I have been so very busy lately that I have not had time to take Miss Morey's deposition, but I expect I shall have to before the hearing.

With kindest regards to yourself, your sister and mother,
I remain most sincerely yours, Paul Lang.

Hall Letters 373. Dec. 3, 1896; D.C. in Boston to Lucy in New Haven.

Edna, today passed from the mortal at 12 M. Funeral at 10 A.M. on Friday 5th inst.
Yours, D.C. [Postal Card]