

# Catharine Beecher

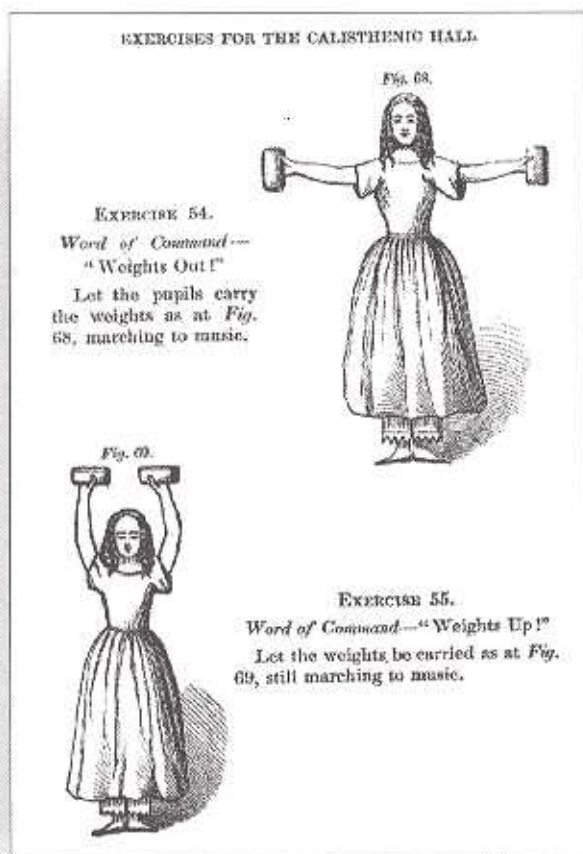


Figure 1 Illustration courtesy of the Harriet Beecher Stowe Center

Hartford July 10th (1828?)

My dear Miss Lyon,

A few weeks since Mr. Henry Jones was here, who is to be the principle of a new female seminary in Greenfield.

In speaking of a female assistant, he expressed a good deal of hope that he could induce you to come to Greenfield.

I had always supposed that it would be ungenerous in me to attempt to get you away from Miss Grant, but if circumstances are such that there is a probability that you may leave her, I wish before you make any decided engagement you would first let me make you an offer here.

I think you would be pleased with the situation in every respect if what I can offer in pecuniary matters is sufficient. We find our present arrangements charming. The society & cooperation of the teachers among themselves our opportunities to read & improve ourselves the facilities we find in teaching & many other things I could tell you of, would I think be very acceptable.

The excellent literary & religious society of this place I think is no small inducement to a residence here.

Will you write me immediately if there is any prospect that I could induce you to join the faculty of the H.F. Seminary.

I send herewith a Catalogue to you & Miss Grant in which you will learn some particulars about the Seminary. If I were not in haste to get this mailed I should like to say more. I am interested to hear how Miss Grant's health is & how she prospers.

I know of no teacher who is more after my own heart than she & I wish I could see more of her.

Sincerely Your friend

C.E. Beecher

Figure 2 Letter courtesy of the Harriet Beecher Stowe Center

## Activities

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### Reading/ Writing

- Write a response to Catharine Esther Beecher asking the questions her letter did not address.

### Learning Resources and Information Technology/ Writing

- Do some research – who is ‘Miss Grant’ referred to in Catharine Beecher’s letter to Mary Lyon? Why did Beecher seek out Mary Lyon? Write a brief report that answers these questions.

### Information Technology

- Visit the Harriet Beecher Stowe Center website. Find out about Catharine Beecher’s Hartford Female Seminary. Write an advertisement seeking teachers or students.

### Viewing/ Problem Solving, Reasoning and Creative Thinking

- Carefully look at the calisthenics illustration. Do you think this was important to have as part of the curriculum at Hartford Female Seminary? Why or why not?
- Can you update the curriculum to reflect modern day gym class? What’s changed?