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Composition

to Thomas

1800

Genius

Genius

Genius may be defined, the power of invention, but it
is contriving or planning something, which was
never before done. This power is useful when it is
of a machine, it is entirely original, or means that
it is something, which ^{continues} was never ~~done~~ before.
In the instance just given we should find the
contriver of the machine, had a mechanical genius
but that, is by no means the religious genius,
he may invent of one sort, or of another, a practical
genius, and there are moral geniuses, he would
figure as a great figure in some of these channels,
or be one or the other of these channels.
We should give that definition, and it would
be concluded, that genius is innate, because if not
it must be a consequence of acquaintance with the
world, and experience, but if it be acquired it
certainly is not original, and therefore cannot
be genius, therefore if my definition be good
my reasons for supposing it innate naturally follow.

Composition

Dec 7th 1834

(P. H. H. H.)
(C. H. H. H.)

1834

The night in Switzerland
I have been very much amused by
the sight of the great mountains and
the deep valleys, the great
valleys and the beautiful
scenery.

I had an opportunity of seeing the
most beautiful scenery in the world. There was a
dark appearance over the whole. The air was
filled with a fine, soft, dark height, appear-
ing frightfully deep. A delightful fragrance
and was ~~filled~~ from the shore by the slight
breeze and the whole air was filled with the
delightful odour of the fresh flowers. The still-
ness was only broken by the light drip of the
rain on the leaves of the grasshopper as he gave his last
good night cry and then all was still.
I had not yet the sleep of sleep but as
we always become when we are absorbed in
thought too deep or when we are so engaged

On the best method of writing
A Composition.

First, define the subject; that is, fix in
your mind the exact meaning of the word
and remove all the doubts which may
arise concerning its signification. By referring
to its ^{derivation} ~~derivation~~, and never write upon a
subject until you understand its meaning
perfectly, for if you do not understand it
yourself, how are you to write a composition
upon it, that other persons can understand?
Secondly, state its qualities, and effects. (its
qualities are) good or bad, (and whether
its effects upon ^{the} ~~the~~ ^{human} mind have
been) advantageous or the contrary.

Thirdly, Illustrate it, by facts, or by comparison
or by contrast. ^{By} ~~By~~ facts from history
or by comparing it, with something else, or by
contrasting it with its contrary. Fourthly, make

Summary

Nov. 11th 1844

Nov. 11th 1844

Nov. 11th 1844

manifestations but such as are immediately
received as such as you are prone by
argument, or by quotation. State the argument
clearly and connectedly, as possible, so as to
make it appear plain to those whom you wish
to convince. Slightly state and remove or
answer all objections, and differences of opinion.
Succinctly. Avoid as much as possible repetition.
It is not only repetition of words but of
phrases, and ideas which makes compositions
look and sound dull. Regularly. Avoid
circumlocution, in expressing an idea. express
it as directly as possible. It is much better
than to take a round about course to arrive
at the point intended. Use only the
best words when they do not appear inelegant,
and vary the length of your sentences, sufficient
ly to make them agreeable. It is very common
to hear the same assertion, whose sentences
are nearly of the same length. Conclude

by summarizing up the whole of your matter
under one head and then if it can be
done without mentioning what you have
said before, make a few practical observations
upon it. 9

Charlotte Cousineau

Mrs. Mason

beings state we ever saw see them acting from
 this principle, but cannot doubt that they
 are possessed of ascertain something which
 makes them act, as if they felt with their
 fellow-creatures - If we could imagine a man
 totally destitute of sympathy, we should
 find him to be the most selfish, and
 uncharitable of mortals, we should suppose
 and probably with justice that he was made
 that way, and made all those
 unhappies, with whom he must in any way
 connected. He should have been with a
 mingled feeling of contempt and pity from
 his fellow-creatures.

Charlotte Wisconsin Clark

Composition

New Haven
 May 26th 1835

I do not know if it
 is true or not, but
 I feel as if I have
 been in your
 mind.

Sympathy

The literal signification of this word is to
 feel with, and this seems to convey the very
 idea generally understood of sympathy.
 It is generally ranked, I believe, with those feelings
 peculiar to the heart, rather than to those belong-
 ing to the faculties of the mind. We have abundant
 reason to suppose that this is a feeling inherent
 in our nature, but it seems also to be very sus-
 ceptible of cultivation. It must be in a great
 measure from our acquaintance with mankind
 and our experience in understanding it is possessed
 by us in a greater or less degree, in the earliest period
 of our lives, if this state be generally admitted.
 There is no doubt as to its increasing by cultivation
 inasmuch as our knowledge of the world and
 our experience increase daily, and this also
 would lead to the conclusion, that its effects
 are different, in the different stages of life,

may not exactly differ, they certainly are exercised in different degrees.

The infant the child sympathizes with his playmates or his favorites when they are grieving, but this feeling is not lasting, it soon "pops off," leaving behind it no trace of sorrow of the cause of his grief. The youth feels with his friend, in sorrow or in joy, and he carries this much further than the child, but this too does not remain for any length of time, neither is it carried to a great degree of deep feeling, which characterizes the sympathy of the succeeding age, or manhood. In that case it would perhaps so easily ~~fade~~ ^{pass} away, were it not that when it occurs, it burns with a bright and lasting flame, which few human things can extinguish. It is then much more deep than in youth, or even than in the age following by old age, at that time as all our faculties, and feelings are apt to become fainter, of course sympathy feels the general

shock. The influence which sympathy exerts over us is very great, it is this which makes friends, and this which keeps them. Nothing more endearing to a person than this. It has our participation in our joys or griefs, to be interested in all our affairs which we are sure of having while we remain at home, makes us feel when we are abroad, as if we were not entirely alone.

The very fact of such persons being so seldom met with, renders them more dear to us. All that by this I would contradict myself and say it is not proper in a degree, by all but although we may find much of it in many persons, we seldom find it in a ~~character~~ ^{degree} great degree, as to render it a characteristic and mark. But the case it is just liable to be noticed. Persons only who have had sympathizing friends know how to prize them. This feeling is not confined to us, for although we cannot suppose the Rule to be sensitive.

On Wars

In reading the old Testament we find that in those early ages, which are here described, men dwelt in families and were governed merely by the fathers or heads of those families. That government was called patriarchal but it was not long before some of the members of that peaceful government, rose in rebellion against the patriarchs, and determined to have a government of their own of which one of them should be the head. This was soon effected and people once ruled by affectionate fathers were compelled to acknowledge fealty to every tyrant who by the influence of men or better than himself, had been set above them as their chief. These chiefs soon emigrated to different parts of the globe and established governments of their own. Not content with this, they prompted by that base of passion, ambition made war against one another for the purpose of adding to their dominions and thus commenced that kind of cold, deliberate, murder with the accounts of which ancient history is filled, and the dreadful influences of which all nations

June 25 1834

Emigration

have felt. With the Romans I at a
time when they were among the most
civilized nations in the world the war
virtue was synonymous with courage, and
in that respect they resemble our Santa
American Indians. The first lesson taught
by an Indian mother to her son is
vengeance, deadly vengeance. Before a young
savage is deemed worthy of being a
chief or of leading any number of
men in combat, he is obliged to meet
in various ways such as being suspended
with his face downwards over a fire
and having ~~the manners~~ of poisonous
insects and reptiles ^{or even} thrown upon him
and being tied to a tree to be shot
at with arrows by the other chiefs of
his tribe. If he goes through these and
many other such ordeals, without
shrinkings he is called not only a
brave but a good man, and is forth-
with elected chief, with all the pomp
and show which such nations are capable
of putting. But at present wars are so frequent
owing doubtless to the very general diffu-
sion of Christianity. To make war
against a nation in our own defence
is sometimes (and of late years has often
been) necessary but when tyranny
waxes to take its sway over the world
over the world even then wars will not

be avoided. It would be impossible to enumerate
all the evils resulting from war, but
the most prominent are the loss of useful
livestock, neglect of peaceful arts and of educa-
tion ^{the} misery of the widows and orphans
of those slain in battle and ^{the} suffering
of the wounded. View now the opposite
of a war. In a country where peace reigns
there also reigns plenty, health, social happi-
ness, civilization and education.
As the influence of Christianity is known
to retard the progress of war and as the
batter is deleterious to the advancement
of a nation in every respect, it would
seem to be the duty of every able moral
and patriotic as well as religious
man to do their part, towards spreading
the holy influences of religion over every
portion of the globe. +

Charlotte Cushman

N. H. H. H.

(Gover)

Compassionate

July 13th 1534

Common
Gown

16 5th

Calais a town in the north of
France once subject to England, and
again ~~the English~~ and remained
free until the accession of Edward III to the
throne. After a battle in which a great
number of French were slain it was
betaken. Edward in order to punish them
more severely for their treachery ordered his
of their principal citizens to be put to
death on the gallows. He did not single
out any particular individuals but
pronounced the sentence upon any word
who would sacrifice themselves in the
cause. This sentence was however
made known to the people who were at
ready suffering from the recent battle, then
they cried out with one voice 'not the
murder of thousands of our countrymen
sufficient to appease the wrath of our
God? But their groans were of no avail
and finally Calais fell. There a patriotic
generous minded man delivered himself
up to the English. In vain did his
friends implore him not to sacrifice
himself his resolutions were fixed and
he entered the enemies camp with
a halter around his neck. All that

should be whipt him and that he could
not die for till and he had heard to
believe when the five ^{others} were collecting around
him would that my death ^{might} be suffi-
cient for all. But ~~these remarkable men~~ ^{these men} were not destined
that ~~these remarkable men~~ ^{these men} should lose
their valuable lives and their fate was
averted in a manner which they had
not thought of. The queen had been
interceding with her husband for the
lives of these men from the time that
the sentence was first pronounced and
though her intercessions had for a long
time proved unavailing but at last yielded
to her persuasions. She flew to announce
to these prisoners that they were free and
not satisfied with that she invited them
to her tent where ^{they had} prepared a sumptuous
feast, after ~~they had~~ partakers of ~~this~~
she sent them home laden with presents.
Words cannot express the joy with which
they were received into their families
but had the queen been present at the time
they related the story of their deliverance
no doubt she would have been amply
repaid by the thanks and praises which
were lavished upon her by these truly
grateful people.

Charlotte Dickinson

N. Haven

Conn.

On politeness

The highest & the most genuine of that word
must be the feeling which prompts us to make
the around us comfortable, and to give as possible help
to the suffering, and to be as useful as possible
in the way of the good of the world, though
it is a kind consideration of the feelings of
others, which is the highest of all, and only to
be obtained by the feeling of the world.

A polite person is one of notice politeness
is courtesy, which is very attractive, and endow
it the good qualities of such an one, as he
does gold.

Almost every one whose mind is not entirely
occupied with selfish feelings, or pursuits,
entertains a desire to make others easy and
comfortable, and when true politeness is shown
it is not only a pleasure to the receiver, but a
proof of the goodness of the giver. Although formal rules are

On politeness
A. K. K.
July 1st 1861

not actually necessary to the welfare
of our polities, still in our intercourse
with society we find it necessary to draw
to some of their habits, and that advantage
may be given without detracting the least
from our political principles. It is
great attraction to elegance, and habit to make
our politeness graceful and forced, and in
time, wholly to destroy it, and make us
truly impossible.

That politeness seems to require, for its sake
a benevolent heart, and one that is ever
ready to spare the feelings of a fellow
creature, and to promote the comfort of
all with whom we are connected.

Its influence on others, is very beneficial,
inasmuch as it sets an example worthy
being followed, it gains respect and the
esteem of the good and more than all

the smiles of an approving God and
a satisfied conscience.
The other virtues, it is seldom acquir-
ed in advanced life, and that should
therefore be cultivated in early life.
Besides all other inducements to its per-
fection, it is to be seen in the
sublime, where it is combined it closely
connected with religion, and surely should
be other inducements and arguments
for inducing us to become really polite,
that ought to prevail.

10 Charlotte Carson

New Haven

Conn.

You may suppose that your mother and I
 are sometimes full of gloom, but nothing happens to us, but alas poor
 me, there will I then lie? It is with a heavy heart my love, that I
 now tell you that there is but little prospect of my seeing my Cha-
 lotte and my Sister this summer. I had set my heart on it, and
 will not attempt to conceal from you that it is a sore and try-
 ing disappointment to me. — My application for leave of absence
 was made last December, and I felt so confident of receiving
 it, that I have heretofore written to you as if there was not the
 least doubt of my accompanying your mother. It appears
 however to be decided otherwise, God grant that the disappoint-
 ment, may prove a blessing. If they should extend granting me
 leave of absence, I shall have received an answer about the
 first of last month, whereas it has not been heard from
 yet. You must endeavour to resist the thought that it is all for the
 best, and bear in mind that you wish to see your mother and bro-
 ther and Ellen, and try to keep up my spirits. — If my Cha-
 lotte stood in need of any tokens of my affection, I would send some
 by your mother, but I know better that mine are necessary.
 The dearie, however, which I desire for you, will you send such
 I kindly hoped to see the pleasure of delivering to you with my
 own hands, I intend to send to you by her, for I know it will
 please you. — I should not say that I will not visit the east
 this summer for I may, although it is very uncertain. If I
 do it will be late in the summer, in all probability. — I am
 often thinking that to be able to see you have by this time
 stopped writing to me, taking as you are, that I will
 soon have a letter from you for home, and we
 will have news of you. — Some wild flowers are in bloom &
 I have commenced picking up into bottles, and have found the
 names of the first plants. — I am not like to study of alone
 if there was one here to pursue the study with me, how per-
 fect it would be. — The first place we have been to is the
 gathering place into them the old seton house and then
 we then set to work. — I am anxious for you to study at home, if
 you please, and I am sure you will call occasionally
 by merely to see what progress you make. How happy I
 would be to see you. — I am anxious to see you and have written
 for you both ago, and to be very much attached to each
 other. — I am confident that you will contribute
 to each others happiness. I told you in my last that I
 had written to Louisa on the subject. You will not
 scold me. It is much to be feared however that she
 will not be able to come for she has promised to spend
 the next winter in Philadelphia. — It is time
 now, that you should hear some of our gossip. Capt. Mayby
 is now in the fort, (formerly the lady's) the young lady to whom
 he was paying his addresses, has married another. — Mr. Chap-

Fort Winnipeg Aug. 27th 1834

My dear sister

I have barely time to say ten words to you, as a mail unexpectedly leaves in a few moments. — Why do you not write and tell me how Sister Mary Anne is? Is she better at home? Why tell me that she is sick at all, if you intend after having fast spoken of it to remain silent? It is more than a month since you have written. Pray I must not be particular of you, for you are a good correspondent, and you must have been very busy for your examination, which takes place about this time. Perhaps you are going to appear before the tribunal this morning. I wish you much success, but not too highly, but to be better, and I should much like to write you now, & send a letter from here last night just as I went to bed and read it then. What am I thinking so much about home and you all that I did not go to sleep till midnight. It was

read again this morning. I got up
all I could to leave the house in
due time, and that I expect to leave here
for the East about the first of next June.
The time will appear short, will it
not sister dear?

I have just this moment returned from Major
Clark's when I went two moments since to see
what news came in some letters they rec^d from
Charlotte last night. She speaks of you all
and says Sister Mary Anna is better, her letter
is dated July 24th & 30th. She writes in very
good spirits, which makes us all happy.

I am very much pleased with the works of
Protary that Sister sent me. They do not how-
ever embrace in their descriptions, all the flowers
that are found in this region. I have al-
ready found two or three that are not mentioned
and have been paying attention to the study
only two or three days. I found the class
order & I sent some back but the par-
ticulars I cannot say. The mail will not
tell me how late than I expected yet I
have only time to give Charlotte some
local news. Much love to her & to all
your own. I remain,

My Sister Peggy.

Dear sister. I have just been at Major
Clark's reading some letters from this day
ten I saw. I wish you could have seen
our happy faces. The fact is Charlotte
I do not intend to be too excited any
more. My being so at the time was the
accident of a day it was surely a
mistake. Such a letter from you every
day as I read this morning would
doubtless keep me steady. Ellen per-
tains me a letter (not quite to death
when I was reading your letter.
She had a letter from her mother
I got upon my lap to show them
to me, and whenever she found I was
reading that paying attention to her she
she wd give me a pull and scold me.
I however managed to finish reading them
and told your mother she need not ex-
pect any other faces here. Your
letters shall soon be embodied, at least
your parents & sisters are all well. They
will write next week, I send them love
They rec^d a letter from Malcom last eve-
ning. He was well & in good spirits.
Remember me to him.

I have now to tell you some bad news.
 Like Dr. Ross lost his little boy Henry. He
 died last Saturday and was buried on Sun-
 day. I have not seen Mrs. McDougall since
 his death. The Doctor looks miserably.
 Genl Brooke has also lost his youngest
 child.

23



The Officers appear to enjoy their usual health. Perhaps
 Mr. Reid, excepted, he looks very thin & I think is not
 well. And now you have become a complete Lunker.
 Have you? Eat 'bad fish for breakfast' & you had
 molasses on it? — Our work about fashions. The
 ladies think they must wear their summer dresses
 now & see never. I think they sh^d put on their
 winter clothing early in September and be pre-

And you the production changes
 in the face. — Much to
 you from your friends & family.

Fort Winnebago May 18th 1834

My dear Sister

I intend to enclose in this letter, one to Charlotte which I hope you will give to her without much delay. Do not think that I intend to ^{grieve} trouble you in this way as long as she is in New Haven, for if you do, you will be mightily mistaken. I may send two or three letters in this way, ~~but I will not~~ ~~do so~~, and for this simple reason; I will not know for certainty, when Charlotte will be in New Haven, till I hear from there after her arrival. If she is not there when a letter for her is received I wish you would take care of it. I have no notion of my letters being sent to the dead letter office, if it can possibly be helped. It is most probable, however, that she will be in New Haven when you receive this. I should like much to hear from you, as soon as she arrives there. As I have told you before, I depend much on you, to enable her to spend her time pleasantly, and to keep her from being homesick. — I wish all my sisters to become well acquainted with her, and to see her as much as they well can. You must go with her to see all that is curious or interesting, To the College Library, the Cabinet of Minerals, Mr Sheppards collection of shells, and the famous telescope, if you ever have an opportunity, — You must tell me when you write to what places you have taken her, and how she appears to be pleased with N. Haven. And tell me too whether she is contented and happy. I have feared that she would feel too deeply her separation from her family, for she has never before been from home. And she is now removed at a great distance from her friends, which appears to be still greater on account of the difficulty of communicating with them; I mean the length of time it requires to get an answer to a letter. I have had a little experience in this. But do not feel ~~as~~ sensitively as might be expected from one of Charlottes age. And I had lived from home many years before I came here, and was somewhat used to it. — But although I may appear to be somewhat weaned from the East you must not think that I do not care about hearing from

then. You will^{not} feel at all jealous or in the least offended if I tell you that I may be still more anxious to hear than ever. You must recollect too that I have ^{been} a very good correspondent within the last year, it may be true that I have not answered a letter now & then, but generally speaking, you must have found me regular. Much might be said in my praise, if I had a trumpeter in pay, but we will not engage any one at present. It would be well for you to know one thing, that is if you always wait for an answer before you write, I will only hear from you once in three months. I have been sometimes almost that time without hearing from home.

When have you seen Mous? Does he often visit New Haven? Has he said anything about going to New York to settle? What news have you of John? and of Louisa? — What have you heard of Ellen Free, & wedding? Had you any of the cake to dream upon? What young men are visiting at Cherry Grove? Does any one appear to be thinking of Matilda Free? & who are making a noise in New Haven, that I know? When is Sophia Sherman to be married? and a thousand other little things I would like you to write about. Was uncle Phillips at New Haven when he was in the East last winter?

We have heard that at these out Ports officers can have, in addition to the time regularly allowed for a furlough, two months to go and come on, so I hope next year to have five or six more. If I do get that much, you will see me, about four months, a long enough time, to make you tired of me. Do you not think so? If you wish to see more of me then, you will have to come back with me. We would travel through the middle and western States. Stop at Cincinnati for a short time; then go down the Ohio & up the Mississippi in a steamboat, passing all the time through a most beautiful country; my conscience what a fine time we would have. Then there are Indians and other kinds of wild beasts to be seen. Try the bye if you wish to learn anything of the Indians, their manners & customs; dress & appearance; their wigwams, &c. &c. ask Charlotte; you can learn these things from her better than I can describe them on paper. She can tell you too how people manage to live in a fort. If you have any curiosity to know the names of the officers in this garrison she can tell you that too, and the society we have here. She may give you some idea of the country about, its general appearance, and describe to you the lakes we used to ride upon last winter in sleighs

Perhaps you have heard from me of the Indians that were delivered up to us by their nation, about eighteen months since as murderers of some whites in the summer of 1832. These poor wretches dug out of the cell, in which they were confined, in the fall of 1832 and were brought to us again the following spring by their nation, the Minnibagoes. They are still in confinement awaiting their trial. There are seven of them, and there is not much doubt but that they were engaged in the murder of which they have been accused, but it will be somewhat difficult to find them guilty in a court of justice. An Indian cannot be sworn in a Court, for he knows nothing of the bible. The proper way to treat Indians who are delivered up to us, as murderers of whites would be to hang them immediately without any form of trial. If their people knew they were to be hung, they would not give them up voluntarily unless they knew them to be guilty. Then they would be furnished and we would not be troubled with them. The Indians around us are a miserable, worthless set of beggars. That is they will beg if they think they can get any thing by it. — They are not the broad, high-mountainings of whom we used to read in stories. Their pride is nothing more ^{than} laziness. They hate to work, they disdain to touch any instrument of husbandry. A hoe or a spade is an abomination to the men; yet they can beg for potatoes or corn. The squaws are obliged to do all the labor and drudgery. I have seen them carrying heavy loads of wood on their backs, which I am pretty confident I could not lift. But they are trained to it, from their childhood, and they are all trained to laziness, and utter worthlessness. To convince yourself of the truth of what I say, you should come & see them. A short time will be sufficient.

When does Louisa return to New Haven, or do you not know? She wrote to me a short time since, and seemed to speak as if she would not visit there till fall. — They all tell me that you have grown very much, and I am very anxious to know how late you are, and how you look. I am afraid I will not know you when I see you, again. You must measure with Charlotte, for knowing how much taller you are than she, I may form some idea of you. — Farewell. Your own brother Horatio

ac
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double



H8V

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Miss Margaret F. Van Cleave
Care of Prof. S. W. Pitts
New Haven
Conn.

Can have
yrs. the
him

4381th Ave. Longmont, Colo.
Fort Winnebago May 24th 1894

My dear Sister

The best of friends may become troublesome, and the best of brothers may try, too severely, the patience of the best, the most sisterly, and the most patient, of sisters. Yet I cannot but believe that the idea of my being troublesome to you, has not yet crossed your brain. I know you fulfilled the commission ^{with which} you were entrusted ^{with}, with pleasure, and I will not hesitate, hereafter, whenever it appears to me prudent and best, to give you the same to perform again. Till I hear from Charlotte and know that she is in New Haven, and to whose care her letters should be directed, I intend to enclose them to you. And it is my intention also to let you pay the postage but not to let you suffer thereby. All will be set to rights when I see you, or before then. — Give my love to Charlotte, with the two letters, that I now enclose to you, and tell her, that the one directed with Lead pencil, she must open carefully, so as not to tear it, for it is to be sealed up again, and sent to her brother, after she has read it. — I speak as if I were confident, that she is in New Haven. I think she will have been there about three weeks when you receive this, and that you will have already spoken of her arrival.

You know not how very anxious I am to know that you can
all love her for her own sake. I know that my sisters
will love her and show her all possible kindness for my
sake, But I will hope for more when they become acquaint-
ed with her. I trust they will find her possessed of qua-
lities which will lead them to love her for her own sake.
You and she are to be associated together, at the same
School I hope, for some time, which should make
me still more anxious that you & she should love
each other. And perhaps I have other reasons. If so,
you cannot know them now. So wait patiently till
you see me. But my dear sister it is a long time
since I have seen you, and it makes me sad to think
that now I do not know the Miss Margaret Vanclen
to whom I am writing. I only know my little Peg-
gy. I can only think of the little girl, and have no idea
of the young lady. Do not think it grieves me to hear of
your improvement, in manners and appearance. This is
my joy, and — I do believe I was going to say something
that would have been improper.

Has Charlotte told you whether there is any resemblance be-
tween you and I? Peggy Fox was said to look like me, and
I wish to know whether Miss Margaret bears any traces of that
resemblance. I think it most probable that you have lost
all. What a pity! You would have been so handsome if
you had continued to look like me.

Tell sister Mary Anna that she will have to describe
Lanetta to Charlotte, for she has heard me speak of
the fairy, and I told her that she must go to Princeton to
see her. I am expecting to hear soon that ~~Lanetta~~ is engaged
to some Theological student, if not married. She
is too fair a flower, from what I hear, to be passed by un-
noticed.

If you were travelling through this country, and were to
pass by this place at this season, you would say that Fort
Winnebago was as handsome a place as you had ever
seen; I do would look upon it as a sort of Paradise in
a wilderness. After travelling for many miles with-
out seeing the dwelling of a white man, and no other
of the country being inhabited, I saw here and there
an Indian lodge and some wandering Indians;
you would see, while at some distance from us, our flag
floating proudly before you, and soon after you would
distinguish the white buildings of the Fort, on a small
elevation, surrounded with forest trees. When you would
be able to examine it closely, and observe how neatly,
and orderly every thing was arranged about it, you would
say, The occupants of this abode cannot be otherwise
than happy. There is one, my dear Margaret who would
be quite happy, if you were with him, and — and
some others. You understand me I suppose. I will
tell you I have wretchedly longed since Charlotte

When Ellen is married, I if you Mrs. Mythe
much joy I happened to share. You account of it
I am sure you will
I am sure you will

left. You must not laugh at me. Perhaps when you
see me again you may be able to sympathize with me.

Remember me to Mr Gibbs. Give my love to Mary Ann
and kiss the little one for me. — Your brother Horatio.

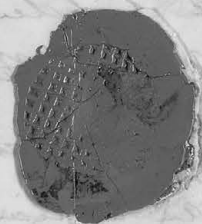
75

H. P. V.

Miss Margaret F. Vanele

How Haven

Conn.



Yr. ble



May 27th A mail has just arrived bringing your letter from
Louisa Lane from Houston. They shall be answered
in due season. I was sorry to learn that there had
been sickness in your family.

Fort Winnebago June 30th 1834

My sweet sister Peggy,

I received your letter this evening dated June 5th and hasten to answer for the mail leaves here to-morrow morning. We were surprised to find that Charlotte was not yet in New Haven. From letters received to-day we think she could not have reached there before the 10th or 12th of June. By this time, however, you have seen her, and we hope your fears were not realized, "that she was ill." Have you learned yet what to call her "Miss Clark" or "Charlotte"? You commenced with 'Miss Clark' but soon found that 'Charlotte' would not be too familiar. Was not that the case? You say you dreamed about her. Did the person you saw in your dream look any thing like the reality? And so my sis has a curiosity to know how I look, has she? That is a subject upon which I was speaking to Louisa a day or two since. You say she is 'coming to New Haven this summer, so you may ask her for my letter to her, dated June 28th 1834, that will give you all the information you wish. Her letter will be sent by the mail that carries this; it was written two or three days since and not directed, for I thought I might hear by this mail that she was in New Haven. Your letter says she will be there this summer, but still my letter might find her at Lawrenceville. I will come to some decision before the mail goes, for it would be useless to keep it here. No doubt it will be able to find her. I am very glad she has decided to go to N.H. this summer for I have been very anxious that she should become acquainted with Charlotte. I will be too happy, when we learn that you all know and love each other. This acquaintance that you are to form with each ^{other}, must not only add much to my happiness now, but through life. And not only to mine, but to young (i.e. my sisters) I hope, and to that of one, whose happiness, for some time past has been, and, I trust, ever will be, my study.

For a long time, after my first leaving home in 1827, I had the consolation of hearing that our little family, were all blest

My letter to Louisa I have decided to direct to New Haven if she is not there, you can direct it to wherever she may be. During the month of June we had rain on 17 days, in May on 14 days, in April it had rained so much that we thought it would certainly be fine weather in May.

with good health; but now this happiness is taken from me; Sister's ill health is continually spoken of. May God Almighty my dear sister, preserve you all from harm, and may he soon reestablish our dear Mary Anna's health.

July 1.st Your letter was commenced last night, too late for me to finish it. — I am glad, my dear sis, that you are thinking of learning ^{music}. I hope it will end in thinking, and for many reasons I would be glad if you were to commence this fall; you cannot hear these reasons now. You give many for delaying till the next spring; and as I do not give mine, of course they can have no weight. Let me say one word however. The sooner you commence cultivating your voice the better. With regard to the instrument, you had better learn on, I have but little to say. There are but two that I know of, that are suitable for a lady, the Piano and Harp, the Guitar being put equal to zero. The Harp I know little about. It is said that it requires a longer time to learn to perform well on it, than the piano, and it requires much care to keep it in order. The piano is certainly an excellent accompaniment for the voice. Its tones are full, sweet, and harmonious. — Go a day if you commence this fall I can play on the flute with you next summer. Will you please to tell me how you learned that I played upon the flute; surely I never told you. I used to torment my neighbors with its noise occasionally, but have ground very little music of late. If you commence this fall I will try to play with you next summer. God grant that our health may be preserved, that our lives may be spared, and that I may then see you all. — It gratifies me much, my dear sis, to find you so much interested in all your studies, as your letter proves you to be. Go a brother will expect much from you when he sees you. — Go a must bear in mind that it is not my wish that you should learn music for my gratification, I never would have spoken of it had I not been impressed with the idea that it was your wish to learn. It appears to me absurd for a lady to sit down before a piano to learn music when she has neither taste nor inclination for it. Her time may be much better spent. But if you have taste and a desire to learn and if you have a good voice, and ear, I hope you will commence learning, I wd say, soon, but you can judge better than I. And that you may be easy and graceful in your gait and manners go to dancing school. I have frequently regretted that I never

attended to it when I had an opportunity. — I have heard nothing of John of late; what has become of him? And what does he say of Miss Hunter? Does he think of settling any serious affairs before next ^{summer}? The rogue intends to leave his brother far behind in these matters.

If Aunt Woodhull goes to Long Meadows with her family, Cherry Grove will indeed be quite desolate. Ellen & Cousin Sam have gone to the West, Aunt Green will be left with none but Cornelia and Mary. When I was there, Aunt I had in her house about twelve females, (her daughter & Aunt W's family.) I must visit Long Meadows when ~~to~~ — to the East, to kiss all my good Cousins, Excepting Eliza, for she wd draw back if I were to attempt such a thing. I will meet with many changes next summer. You will be grown up and all the young Woodhulls. — Cherry Grove deserted; Uncle B's school in other hands; ~~this~~ place of residence changed; Cousin Regean, no more; George living in Somerville; Perhaps John married; living in N York; Princeton improved in size & appearance &c.

Should you ever take it into your head to come into this country and spend two or three years, you may able to realize what my ~~have~~ have been, when thinking on these subjects. It ~~occasionally~~ ~~torments~~ torments me a little, yet I spend my time quite pleasantly for I have some friends here ~~who~~ are very dear to me. I hope you will have an opportunity of becoming acquainted with Mrs Clark next summer, she expects to go to New Haven after that runaway daughter of hers. You may give my warmest love to this runaway daughter and tell her that her mother — But no matter, taking it for granted that you will not object I will write a few lines to her on this sheet. You have always my permission (if such permission is necessary in your estimation, I am not always so scrupulous) to show her my letters, if you think she will be interested. Always read what I write in your letters. My sisters have my warmest affection, Remember me to them, & to Mr Gibbs. Kiss the little one for me. I took the liberty to direct my last letter to Charlotte to the care of Mr Gibbs as we had not yet heard from her. If I do not hear before I write my next, it may be directed in the same manner. My last letter to her was put in the office on the 24th June I am very anxious that they should reach her in safety. —

Very affectionately your brother Rash.

To Charlotte. — This is your birth day, dearest, and I intend to celebrate it by writing to you but can not finish the letter before the mail closes. I rec^d a letter from Malcolm yesterday dated West Point June 1st and am sorry to learn he had not rec^d his appointment. We hope he may yet receive it. He says it was raining while you were at the Point, of course you saw none of their parades. We hear from you at New York, by a letter to the Colonel from your father. There, you were under the painful necessity of bidding farewell to one of your travelling companions. Were many tears shed on the occasion? When you write to Malcolm tell him his letter shall be answered as

Next time to think of more than me. Look in-
sistent and say you have no idea of whom it can
be. — Mrs. Weston is sure to be good friends, she is writing
to know how to direct letters to Malcolm. She intends
to write as soon as she hears from you. She little sus-
pects all this. — I am with kindest regards to you.
of course, I mean to leave.

by I'm
occasional
times

Love.

New Haven

Care of Bro. S. W. Gibbs

Miss Margaret F. Van Buren



soon as I know where to direct it. — The Mail carrier brought word yesterday that Capt Low was at Hastings place (12 miles from here) and a party of men was sent out this morning to assist him over the marshes. They may be here before I close this letter. The hearts of all the young beauts are now going fit a fob, in expectation of meeting the young ladies. As I think nothing of the girls (according to Louisa) my heart goes as regular as clock work, on the occasion. In fact I have been so busy I have for a day or so, I have not

Fort Winnebago July 22^d 1834

My dear Sister Margaret

Your sweet letter of many ~~days~~ with a sweet post script from my sweet Charlotte came to Green Bay in the same Steam Boat that brought Capt. Clark. I was at Fort Howard when the Captain arrived there as you have no doubt learned before this from Charlotte. I went then for Pleasure's Lake. First Pleasure you will say, to ride during hot weather over long prairies (Charlotte can describe the prairies to you); to wade through marshes swarming with mosquitoes; and to cross streams that are so deep that your horses are obliged to swim. Nevertheless we find pleasure in such journeys and one is not likely to be troubled with ennui in the mean time. And then one is not apt to have very frightful dreams when he lies down to sleep on an open prairie, rolled in his cloak and a saddle for a pillow. When Capt. Clark & myself were returning home we stopped at sunset, after riding about fifty miles over a very bad road (we have no roads in this country but follow Indian trails), and after taking something to eat, we rolled ourselves in our cloaks to take a short sleep, but the mosquitos interfered, and finding the attempt useless we saddled our horses at 12 o'clock mid night, and started again on our journey. In the meantime a shower came up for our comfort and the black clouds made it so dark that oftentimes we could not see the trail, excepting when the lightning pointed it out to us. Fortunately our horses could see better than we could and no accident happened to us. At day break it stopped raining, and a cold wind drove off the mosquitoes. We took advantage of this and unsaddling our horses again laid down on the open prairie and with our wet cloaks. This time we had a comfortable sleep of about two ~~hours~~ hours. We started again about 5 o'clock and that day reached home at 4 o'clock P.M. — I have given this long account of our journey that you may have some idea

of the way that we travel in this country, for pleasure.
Captain C. told me that Charlotte was going to
spend her vacation next September with Mrs. Little.
You have no idea, my dear sis, how much it grati-
fied me to learn this. It has been my wish that you
should be as much together as possible that you may
know & love each other and now my wish is about
to be gratified. Yesterday the mail that brought your
letter brought one also from Louisa and one from
I Brown. Louisa told me that she was going, soon,
to Heaven. Now I am almost too happy. If
I could but be with you. But we must wait till
next year, then if it is God's will, you I will
bring Charlotte's mother to see you. — I am very well
satisfied with the arrangements that Charlotte has made
about writing to me. Tell her that she need not expect me
to wait for her letters before I write to her. I write every
fortnight and she cannot write to me that often. I al-
ways thought Mrs. Apthorp would think highly of her &
was glad that you confirmed it in your letter. You know
not how happy it made her parents to hear Mrs. A's
opinion of Charlotte. — I do not envy my sister the plea-
sure she anticipates from Charlotte's society next Sep-
tember, but I wish I could be with you in those "long
walks" and hear those "long talks," and read to you while
you were sewing. Ask Charlotte if she ever heard me
read. If you intend to learn music I should like you
to commence soon for reasons which as yet must be
kept to myself. If you intend to purchase a piano
why not get it now. But perhaps it would be best
to hire one for the present if you can hire a good
one. For the same reasons that I wish you to commence
music soon, I think it would be best to hire a piano
for the present. Be sure that you have one while Char-
lotte is with you. — If you purchase you must let
me assist you, and if you hire one you must permit
me to pay for its hire. Did Charlotte show you the mu-
sic I copied for her. As soon as you commence
your music I intend to copy a few pieces for you, like

hers, and the birds shall be drawn as soon as I can
get some nice papers. — Do you wish to know the
history of those baskets? Charlotte made them & I looked
on. I drew a squirrel for one of them, and would have
drawn a pine for the other if I had had paper.

Your letter nearest Margaret, besides much
good news brought much that was bad. It grieved
me to hear of Sister's illness and of the low state
of aunt Brown's health. God grant that both may
soon be restored to health. Give my love to sister
and tell her I hope to see her in good health next
summer. I will write to her soon. Kiss the little
one for me & remember me to Mr. Little. — Capt.
Clark saw uncle Phillips in Detroit, he had
intended to pay me a visit but was obliged to
give up the idea. I was in hopes of meeting him
at Green Bay. He would have come with Capt.
C. if he had known that I was at the Bay.
I did not know I was going till the day before
I started. — John tells me he has been short of
a touch his health. What is the matter of it for
him? Is he too sick? He gave me to under-
stand that he would be married before next
summer. I wish him much happiness. — The
Botany that you sent me I have not yet seen. It
will come from Green Bay with Capt. C.'s baggage.
It will do very well I have no doubt. — And so
Sophy took it into her head to give me M. his walk-
ing tickets, did she? The dear sweet soul, does she
think that men have no hearts? If she treats us in
this way for her own amusement she may some day
be found out. She may repent of this when she gets
to be thirty & finds she is still Miss Sherman. — But
I did not know Mr. M. neither do I care a straw
for him.

Farewell dearest. Give my love to Char-
lotte. I write to her by this mail. One or two letters
that I wrote to her were directed to the care of Mr.
Gibbs. Your brother Horatio
Written in much haste

If Luisa is with you give my love to her, and tell her, that her letter will be answered soon. I gave Captain C the messages she sent. — Have you learned yet what you must call her letter? It delights me to find that you and she talk of each other as if you had been acquainted for years.

Wm. W. W. W. W.
22 July 1841

H P V

Miss Margaret J. Van Cleve
Care of Prof. J. W. Gibbs

New Haven
Conn.

Your
sister

Fort Winnebago Sept 29th 1834

My dear Sister,

I am looking forward with much pleasure to the time when I am to receive those long letters that you and Charlotte were to write to me during this vacation, telling me of your long walks and talks, and of every thing that interests you. While writing you know you are doing that which will add to my happiness, but little do you know how much it is to add to it. Little do my sisters know of the joy I feel when I receive a letter from them; neither do they know how often their letters are read and reread. Continue to write to me frequently dearest Margaret, for I believe that you and Louisa & Charlotte are now my only correspondents. I fear I sometimes suffer my mind to be too much distressed when it appears to me that a brother or sister has neglected me. Yet is it unreasonable? Debarred from their society as I am is it unreasonable to wish to hold a little brotherly chat with them through the only medium that is left, the mail? But my sisters have all been very kind to me, and I do not complain of them. The kind attentions they have paid to Charlotte, who is as dear to me as self, have proved to me my sisters' love. This proof however was never needed, for I always knew my sisters. But stay, there is one who is not known to me, and you, Margaret, are that one. I left you in New Haven, a mere child, & now you are grown to be a young lady, and I have not the least idea of how you look. You must give me an exact description of yourself the next time you write. Tell me your height in feet & inches; the color of your hair, and how you put it up; how you compare in size with Mrs Pitts, Louisa & Charlotte.

Tell me whom you look like, whom you walk like, whom you sing like and whom you talk like. Do you resemble your brother Rask or have you forgotten how he looks? For fear that you may have forgotten I will describe him to you. He is about the ~~same~~ height of your other brothers, with a slender form, blue eyes, nose and chin long and rather sharp, broad mouth, hair dark and thin, and cut very short. As his hair falls out very much he expects soon to be bald. He does not talk very much, speaks in rather a low tone, and some of his friends say he never smiles. This however is a mistake for he not only smiles, occasionally, but I have known him sometimes to go so far as to laugh. This is after he has received letters from home, for then he is in a particularly good humor. If you meet a person next summer answering to this description, you must not be alarmed, and if he were to meet you unexpectedly in the streets of New Haven and give you a kiss you need not be very much offended. — Charlotte is now soon to leave you to return to Mrs Apthorp. You see I am taking it for granted that she has been spending her vacation with you. I am anticipating much pleasure from the letters, that were to be written while she was with you, those long ones of which you spoke in one of your letters. Yesterday was just five months since I have seen Charlotte and tomorrow will be five months since she left here. The time has appeared long to me.

This is the time of the year that the Indians receive their annual payment, for the land purchased of them by our Government, and they are gathering around us now by the thousands, and there are almost as many traders here ready to gull them out of their Snake Bittern. A great quantity of whiskey is sold to them on that occasion, we are witnesses to some sad scenes of drunkenness and its consequences. Murders are not infrequent, and their savage

yells are heard in all directions for several days and nights in succession. It is almost impossible for you to form any adequate conception of their heathenish conduct without being an eye witness to it. They are excessively fond of ardent spirits, and the whites furnish with whiskey as long as the Indians have the means of purchasing it. A good way, that is to say a cheap and quick way, of ridding our country of Indians, would be to furnish them with as much whiskey as they could drink. They would soon kill themselves with it. But if you wish to form a correct opinion of the Indians, and to learn any thing about their manners and customs, you must come and see them. — The Indians seldom live to an advanced age. There are nevertheless some about us who very old and still appear strong and active. I know a man who must be nearly ninety, whose mother is still living. In the summer of '32 the Indians were dancing near us many days and nights in succession and long time I saw them. This old woman was dancing with them. She must be about 110 years of age. The dancing of the Squaws is less exercised than a pender than our dances. They dance however a longer time without stopping. That of the men is very violent, exercising every muscle of the body. — Their music is very simple, a few persons sing, and beat on a drum, and the dancers every few minutes stop for a moment and give a chorus of yells. — The Indians have a flute upon which they play a few simple but singular airs.

I am writing to Charlotte by this mail, and have told her that if she would compare notes with you, it might appear as if some parts of one letter had been copied into the other. — owing to the irregularity of the mails it is many weeks since we have had any news from New Haven. I believe the ~~latest~~ latest date from there was July 24th and this was a letter from Charlotte

25-

HPV

Indians

Miss Margaret F. Van Cleve
Care of Prof. Abbotts
New Haven

To arrive
(via Chicago)



I have not yet heard any thing of Louise's arrival. How long does she remain with you, or has she left you in this? — Remember me to Mr. Gibbs, Kiss the little one for me, and give my warmest love to my sisters, and Charlotte. I am very anxious to hear from you.

Very affectionately your brother Horatio.

[illegible]

me very happy to find that Charlotte was with you; that you were, all, much attached to her, and deeply loved by her. In former letters she had spoken much both to me and to her parents, of you and sister Mary Anna, but she had never before spoken of having seen Luisa. I cannot now regret that Charlotte left us. Beside the advantage to be reaped from the school, it will add much to my happiness, - and (is it too much to say) to Charlotte's happiness, and to my sister's happiness. That you can think of each one another, and correspond as (I must say it) sisters. If she had remained here with us, you wd never have thought of one another as you now do. - Having written enough for a Sabbath evening I will now bid you good night, and may the Almighty bless you all and keep you from harm. You little know, how much I think of you, how much I wish, to see you, and be with you.

Oct. 20th. To day we have been attending a Council held by the Commanding Officer, who is also Sub Agent for the Winnebagoes, with the Indians. Now when you hear of Indian Councils, do not think of the stories you have read of them, for they will be apt to mislead you. It may ^{be well} to remark before I go any farther, that if you wish to have a good opinion of the "Children of the Forest" (how well it sounds!) you sh^d keep at a distance from them, and never read the accounts, or listen to the tales, of those who have lived among them, and who are, from observation, acquainted with their manners. Whenever I speak of a Council I wish you to picture to yourself a group of filthy looking savages, in old, greasy blankets, most of them smoke pipes, and seated on the floor or on the ground, as the case may be. - You have no doubt have frequently heard of the wisdom, displayed by their orators on these occasions. So have I heard of it. They appear to think that their remarks are very valuable, and that they sh^d not be lost. For in a long speech, they seldom give you more than one saying, which is repeated in a Major Chalk (speaking of the Major to ten of the men even out of my mind.) Winnebagoes their annuity, on the 22^d was held to day to present to them

whites, for compensation for depredations committed on the claimants by some of the Winnebago tribe. When the Indians allow these claims to be just, the money is retained from their annuity and paid to the claimant. Many of these accounts are no doubt unjust, and I was glad to find to day that but few were allowed. As soon as the money is paid, we will have a grand Indian pow-wow around us. Ask Charlotte if she cannot imagine sometimes that she hears their incessant cheek-at-at, when they are 'weeping for their lost relations' over a bottle of whiskey. When an Indian has lost a relation, he asks for a bottle of whiskey to make him cry. When an idea! We feel disposed to laugh when we hear it, yet it sh^d lead us to pity the degraded condition, of the Indians, of which, nothing can be a stronger proof. A drunken Indian is a complete savage. As he is never taught to curb his passions when he is sober, so when drunk, they are completely un restrained. The blackest crimes are then committed. I may have told you that several of them were murdered last fall during the payment of the annuity, - or did ^{I look} upon it as of so little consequence as to deem it a waste of time, pen, ink and paper, to mention it. - So much for Indians.

If you wish to know how I spend my time, you may imagine ^{from 9 o'clock AM till 1 PM.} every day, (Sundays excepted) that I am sitting in my room, by a comfortable fire, sometimes reading, and sometimes writing or perhaps otherwise employed. You must imagine too, a table in the middle of my room and that I am sitting by one side of it. (I never sit by more than one side at a time), then fancy to yourself a sweet little girl, about nine years of age, sitting by the other side, or by a little desk studying or writing. Perhaps you wd like to know who this sweet little creature is, and just to excite your curiosity, I believe I will not have been studying with me for some time past. I expect she will come as the payment is over, that is on the 23^d. Tell you about her: She is one of the

three little pets I have here. It is now Past 11 o'clock and I must again bid you good night.

Oct 21st I have been very busy all day and it is now late at night, yet this letter must be finished for to morrow's mail, and I will scarcely have a minute to myself to^{morning} morning, not even to read a letter sh^d I receive one or two or more from you & Louise and Charlotte. I do not expect so many however, so I will not be disappointed sh^d they not come. — I wish much that I c^d tell you something about Mr Davess, but he never writes and we never hear from him. It is probable that he is very busy about making arrangements to get married, and has not time to think of absent friends.

25

HPV

-34



Miss Margaret F. Van Cleve
Care of Prof. J. W. Gibbs

My dear Anne

Come.

Single

Writing to them for I began to tell
to them of you etc. I told that my
sisters knew them. Arthur, & a very
dear to me. All the family are
dear to me.

agents
of
the
rev

Mr Collinsworth has gone on Sunday and it is probable that he may never return to the Regiment. — ^{A few days since} one of my little sweethearts thought she had offended me and was somewhat troubled about it, her sister Mary observing it, says I never mind, Martha, talk to him about Charlotte, that always puts him in a good humor? Perhaps, that I had three little sweethearts dear little creatures they are to and driving low spirits from despoiled. The names of my sis

Fort Winnebago March 23^d 1835

My dear Peggy.

A letter from you by the last mail, both surprised and delighted me. Surprised, because I had long since been forced to come to the conclusion, that my sisters were always too much occupied to think of writing to an absent brother (that is, if he were a great way off), and that if I ever heard from them it wd be by accident. You may acknowledge that I have had some good reason to draw such a conclusion, when I tell you that I have only received three letters from any of our family since last October. All those three were from you, and one of them in fact was merely a postscript in a letter that Charlotte had written a month previous. Louisa has not written a line to me since she was in New Haven. I did not intend to say so much on this subject, but I often think of it. — I did not know, till I received your letter, that Houston intended to remove to Philadelphia. If I pay a visit to the East next summer, where will I find you all? — I must now bid you good night. Tell Charlotte that the prairie between the Fox and Wisconsin rivers has been burning, off towards Swan Lake, all day, and that another fire can be seen from my window, towards the west, and but a short distance from us. When looking at these fires, I have often wished that my sisters c^d see them. Good night.

March 24th

The news you gave me of Cousin Eliza Cardick's death was very unexpected and painful. I was not aware that she had been in bad health. This must have been a very afflicting stroke to her mother and sisters. I feel much for Aunt Woodhull, she has had many severe trials within a few years past. — You say Louisa thinks of going to Philadelphia, — I intended to make some remark but it is of not the least consequence. I once did hope that Charlotte would pay her a visit during the Spring vacation, but I suppose she has given up the idea. — One word about your piano, — by all means purchase a good one; not gaudy, nor highly ornamented; let it be plain, but well toned. —

March 25th All that I have said about not receiving letters from my sisters &c I take back, for this afternoon, I received two of the sweetest of letters, one from Louisa and the other from a dear one, no matter whom. Tell her that I intend to answer it next week. Louisa's must be answered this evening, although I have but little time. I wish you could see how happy your brother looks. —

I have just been to supper but did not eat much for Charlotte's sweet letter had taken away my appetite. (I sh^d have said Charlotte's and Louisa's sweet letters, but let it pass.) I have to close my letter now, for it is highly important that I sh^d answer

Louisa's letter by this evening's mail. I will try to write to you again soon to make up for this short letter. Give much love to Sister, Charlotte, and all. Kiss the little pets. How much I do wish to kiss them for myself.

Ever, dearest Peggy, your affectionate
brother Rosh. —

I am determined you shall have the Piano if you wish to learn music & if Sister Mary Anna approves of it. — When I make a determination, I always make one reservation, viz: 'God willing'.

I showed Charlotte's letter to her mother & father. They are well as are my dear little pets.

Louisa speaks of going to Cincinnati.

Hartwimbury 80
Feb 25 ms

[Large decorative flourish]

Miss Margaret F. Van Cleve
Care of Prof. S. W. Gibbs

HPV

New Haven
Conn.



Fort Winnebago Nov. 10. 1855

H P V

My dear Sister

I commenced a letter to you a week or two since on board of a steam boat, on the Mississippi, but was not able to finish it. It is now in my trunk somewhere between here & Galena.

We arrived here on the 3rd inst, after a very unpleasant journey of more than forty days. On the Mississippi we had ice & the day we reached home it was very cold, and we felt it not a little in our ride across the prairies. Mrs Clark found her daughter Mary very ill, with scarlet fever, & necrosis in her leg. For about two weeks the physicians had given up all hopes of her recovery; but we trust that she is now much better. On the day after our return, Ellen was taken very ill. We think she caught cold on the journey. She is better. The rest of us are pretty well.

I am not yet settled, for my bedding^{that} was sent from N York last July has not reached here, but is daily expected. Judging from the expedition with which ^{it} they have travelled we may reasonably look for Charlotte's books &c - that were sent off last September, - sometime next summer.

Fort Winnebago has changed but little since I left last spring. Some officers have gone & others have taken their places, but still it appears like home, or will as soon as my bed comes, and I have a place to sleep. - I shall like to stop in this evening to see how you all look and to have a good long talk with you, notwithstanding you think I can but little about you. - Do you find time to practice music? I can almost fancy I hear the "Mistletoe-bough-wow". Charlotte does not find time to play, there is so much sickness in the family.

In my letter to sister from Dayton, I informed you that Louisa was not accompanying

me. I feel bound to congratulate you all on this change in her plans for I know it must have been a subject of much rejoicing among you. I try to think it is all for the best. Louisa appeared to spend her time very pleasantly in Dayton, and her friends there were very desirous that she should spend the winter with them. I presume she will return to the east by the first opportunity next spring.

I am very anxious to learn what has become of Jonathan, and to hear his ~~news~~ for the future. He appeared to be in a state of uncertainty when I saw him last. I do not believe that fortunes are absolutely necessary for our happiness, never the less I wish that each of my Father's had one. How pleasant it would be if we all like near one another. But this cannot be. God grant that we may all meet in Heaven.

Look for cold weather about the time
this letter reaches you. It is snowing here
now. When you write let me know what
you are doing, what progress you make
in music &c.

For Wm. L. Wm. L. Wm. L.

Nov 11

H P V

Mrs. Margaret F. Van Cleve
Care of Prof. J. W. Gibbs

New Haven
Conn.

Nov
10

Love to Sister, Mr Gibbs & the little
ones. — With much love your brother
Rash.

Good night. — Charlotte would send
her love if she knew I was writing. She
intends to write as soon as she can