



Horatio P. Van Cleve and
family papers.

Copyright Notice:

This material may be protected by copyright law (U.S. Code, Title 17). Researchers are liable for any infringement. For more information, visit www.mnhs.org/copyright.

Mission Buildings Green Bay
March 14 1836

My Dear Madam

I have but just learned your affliction and I was too to condole with you under it - your loss is great & must break up all the fountains of the head, to weep is a relief to the heart & did not your tears flow upon this occasion, I should expect that soon your own heart would burst - I do not therefore wish you to dry up your tears - but let them flow, and while your tears are thus pouring, let your heart also be poured out to the Father & the Son in humble entreaty for support in this trying hour -

The Lord that afflicts you knows best how to administer consolation - remember he does not railingly afflict any of the children of men - & when he does it, it is for some wise purpose, and all we can do is to have in humble submission to the rod - It is true these dispensations frequently come upon us so suddenly that we are prostrated in the dust - now sudden was Job's affliction, so astonishing his prostration, that his friends sat by his side seven days & seven nights, & none spoke a word unto him; for they saw that his grief was great -

My Dear Lady, suffer me to induce you to moderate your grief, do not let it impair your health or sink your constitution - you know in whom your heart is trusted & he will not forsake you in your affliction - he has not left you comfortless, he has only removed one of the many which he had given you, & one perhaps you idolized, perhaps he found that this was an idol which abtided between your heart & him - However that may be, he is still able to administer consolation to the wounded spirit & to bind up the broken heart -

I know from sad experience the feelings & the loneliness of a widowed heart - & not only so but by the side of their dear Mother rests the ashes of two dear & affectionate children - thus has my heart been given again & again & the greatest consolation I had were taken from me - but the Lord did not forsake me he can uphold me

and gave me that support which could flow from no other source - They have left me, they are gone from me, & shall never return, but soon I shall go to them - soon shall we be united again never to part more -

And soon my dear Lady will you also follow your dear husband - long was he spared to you - Long did God continue this connection, but the time had arrived for its dissolution - the moment for its termination - & here again we see the mercy of a most merciful God - in the manner of administering this separation - ~~your husband~~ might have fallen upon the field of battle, or beneath the murderous Tomahawk & scalping knife, for from home & from the reach of friends, with no one to receive his last parting sigh, to close his eyes, or to perform for him the last sad offices of friendship - but no God in his mercy had ordered it different - he was spared to you, where you could administer to his every want - surrounded by kind friends & the ablest medical attendance - and all my Dear Sister - when you could watch his every wish & administer to his every want - when you, & the Dear pledges of your mutual affection, could follow him & witness the performance of his last sad offices to the departed -

Oh! I never was not at dispensations of Providence where there is so much goodness intermingled with the evil - earthly parents could have united more kindly & more sympathetically to mitigate the severity of this blow - now let the tears of conviction mingle with those of bereavement - & in humble submission to the dispensations of God, say "the Lord gave & the Lord hath taken away & blessed be the name of the Lord" -

But, my Dear Sister, your duty to your Dear Children is now much increased - & here let the whole energy of your mind be brought into requisition - go to the fountain of all wisdom, & humbly implore such assistance as shall enable you to bring them up in the fear & admonition of the Lord - you have undoubtedly given them to the Lord in baptism - and now that they may know all things which a Christian is right to know & believe to their souls health

it will resolve upon you to teach ^{them} by watching the movements of their minds - leading ^{them} to that fountain of wisdom from whence all blessings flow -

And here again I see the blessings which are multiplied upon you - for while your affections are resting upon your Children you are relieved from sinking in despair - your domestic circle will be your happiness and your mind kept from brooding over its melancholly situation -

In this trying hour, call in to your aid those Christian consolations to which you are not a stranger - remember that it is through much tribulation that we must enter into our rest - ~~and~~ ^{and} ~~that~~ ^{that} these light afflictions, which are but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding & eternal weight of glory -

Oh, that you & yours may gain the blessed shore safely without a wrack of faith & a good conscience -

When your feelings will permit, I should like to hear some of the particulars of the last moments of your dear Husband - how death appeared to him as it drew near, & what were his particular views

Please remember me affectionately to your dear Son - Tell them from me that God has ~~promised~~ ^{promised} to be a father to the fatherless -

They must now yield their youthful hearts to him, & he will bless them - that they must be kind to each other & particularly ^{so to} their dear Mother, who is now their only earthly parent - but that while their hope & confidence is in God they shall seek no good thing -

When I first heard of your affliction I could have flown to you had the distance been within the bounds of reason - but instead thereof I have to send you this poor scrawl & comfort myself with praying that God may give you grace sufficient for your trials - Give my love to the children whom I trust you now find a friend indeed - I hope his unrelenting exertions to administer relief will not be unavailing -

Mrs. Clark

With great esteem Dear Sister I remain Yours in Christ Daniel O'Brien

1874

St. Michaels

St. Michaels

St. Michaels

St. Michaels

China St Clair Michigan

July 24th 1837

Dear Sir

Yours of the 29th of

January was recd last week and

I called on the Treasurer of this County

and he gave me the following statement of

your Taxes viz for 1836

for 1837

or certificate

and will be paid for the year 1836 in

the year 1837

Yours P. Van Cleave Esq



84
Van cleve Esq

St. Louis

Brownstown

Wayne County

Michigan

Wm. H. H. H.
Chas. H. H.

I had back July 20th 1857

My dear Mother

I just received
your letter and have seen
it. The rec^d of Cole & Porter are
unknown, for the latter has
been taken care of by the
\$200. I have with me close the ex-
cept to you rec^d for Charles Porter
of his father's estate. I have not yet
rec^d any money from Wm. George
ap^t to D. M. Longall. wrote a letter
time since I said, he expected to get
what was due him. Perhaps when
I will then send it. I am sorry to hear
Malcolm has gone to sea.



Miss

Cincinnati

Ohio

Fort Winnebago

Feb 19th 1856

Sir

By request of Mrs Clark
I address you on a subject too
painful for her to write at present.

Your friend Mayor Clark
is no more. He breathed his last
yesterday afternoon about 4 o'clock.
Your letter arrived a few hours af-
ter his death, and his feelings
were spared from the suffering
it w^d have occasioned.

I have the kindness to inform
Molecular of the death of his father
and urge him if he regards the

last wishes of his deceased parent and
the happiness of the one who survives,
to exert himself to the utmost to pass
through the Academy with credit to him-
self. - Mrs Black is inclined to ask

that, ~~to~~ in greatest kindness you
could confer upon ^{her} from the long ac-
quaintance and friendship which ex-
isted between you & her deceased hus-
band, and from the interest which
you have uniformly manifested to-
wards her son.

Mrs Black & daughter desire
to be remembered to Mrs Fowle &
yourself. - They will write to Mr. &
Colon Foster, but at present, are in
too deep affliction.

I am very respectfully
Yours most humbly
Major John Fowle. H. P. an Clerk

At New York
Feb 19

25

Major John Foulke
West Point
N. Y.

Flat Rock Feb. 15, 1837.

My dear Mother

Having some business that concerns myself to lay before you I will commence with this. I am engaged in the Presumptive and Lumber business in partnership with Alfred Hunter, John's brother in law. - John has the management of our store. Thus far Mr Hunter has advanced almost all the capital. My property is almost entirely in real estate, which I could not sell at present without a great sacrifice, and I have no cash money to raise the strength of it, for we have no money to loan.

If you have any help for five or six dollars upwards that you could let me have soon, or if not immediately by the 1st of June, I have property to the amount of about \$3700 (that is about what I paid for it, and I think it worth at least that amount.) That I ^{could} give you as security. - I would be glad if you could let me know immediately for we expect to send on to New York for goods about the 1st of March, and I sh^d like to know if I could get any assistance from you. The interest would be paid to you annually.

If you can furnish any, I would not want it sent here but to New York to Alfred Hunter.

Charlotte is in daily expectation of becoming
a mother. I intend to write immediately after
that happy event, to give you the information. We
all enjoy good health, and have every reason
to thank the Almighty for his goodness to us.
Sometimes I think we might get you to come here
if we had an Episcopal Church established.
Of late we have had several sermons from
Episcopal clergymen. — I wish much that
Charlotte could be with you during her sick-
ness, but that will be impossible. We do
trust her, however, to God, he will take
care of her.

Charlotte & Mary send me love
to all. — Give many kisses to Mary & my
god daughter Susan.

Your affectionate Son
J. M. C. C. C.

Brown
Feb 6 1851

Paid 18 1/2

Amos Black

Georg St

Cincinnati

Ohio

Dayton, Oct 25th 1838

Dear mother

The train arrived safely last evening bringing with them your very welcome letter and I have taken the very earliest opportunity to answer it, although soon now I am writing with the baby on my hip. He had a very pleasant ride from Cincinnati and the baby behaved like a man. he did not cry in the least and his conduct was highly approved of by his good Uncle. I think he took cold but he is now well or nearly so and is a darling good boy, but he misses the children very much and is perfectly when any of the little grandchildren come to see us. Marianna and her poor distressed husband came to see us the night we arrived here, she is hardly able to get about and he looks just like a living skeleton. I really was almost afraid to speak to him but may say he is a little better. From what Mrs Weston told me of that dreadful disease, I am tempted to believe that he has the consumption of the lungs. I believe I have seen all the relations of course. I do not go out at all the baby keeps me in entirely and indeed I do not feel anxious to go out, I just want to

want patience if possible till Horatio and then
set my face northward in good earnest. we
shall be very late on the lakes, but I hope God
will protect us as heretofore. I shall look for
Nash on Saturday although I think it more than
probable that he will not be here before next
week. I wish you either write or let some of the
children write to me as often as once a week and
I will try to write to some of you as often as
at all events once in two weeks. Remember I shall
be far away from you all and shall not
have anything to check me in my comparative
studies. My visit thus far has been very plea-
sant, Uncle is very kind to me, indeed and
so is his wife she is a fine woman. They
are very loving, but behave with a great
deal of propriety. While you believe that
Mr. Hearn is in town, report says he is
waiting for Eliza Houston, but it is doubt-
ful whether she comes up this winter or
not. I do not think he will return to
Cincinnati this winter, if he does, I would
not be annoyed with him, his character
cannot be very good for every one who has
spoken to me of him, has asked me if he
paid me when he left you.

Tell Miss C. Morris and Betsey Garrison that
I had the extreme pleasure of seeing their
friend J. Tanclevin last evening. He is in
good health, as far as outward appearance
goes, and certainly he is much increased
in size. Tell them not to quarrel about him
there is enough of him for both.

How is Mrs. Taughton and family? What
prospect of her getting into her house? Give
my love to her and to Mrs. Weston and
Miss Morris, do you not miss us very much?
My health is very good now. Suppose
you may look for Horatio in about a week.
Has Miss Williams taken my room? I
thought Horatio goes to Cincinnati. I must have a
list of whatever things I may think I need
much love to the children. Remember me
to Mary and Anne, I must try and send
them something by express.

May God protect and bless you ever
and ever yours affectionately
Charlotte.

OCT
26

For

Mrs. C. A. Clark
George Street
Cincinnati
Ohio.

[illegible]

Hat Rock. May 9th 1839.

Dear Mother.

We rec'd a letter from your last son enquiring about the taxes on your Michigan land. Now I would have answered you, but his business is such as to hurry him almost to death and he has therefore requested me to let you know that the taxes this year will probably be at least \$12.00 judging from what he has had to pay on his own land. He owns 400 acres and has already paid \$17.90 for town and county tax the ~~tax~~^{state} tax has not yet been presented to him. The taxes this year are enormous, they will eat up our land I am afraid, and as for selling any thing more I suppose it would be impossible. Horatio says it will be necessary to have it paid as soon as possible, and we wish much that we could pay it ourselves for, for I think I must owe you that much or more, but indeed I suppose we ought to well attempt to fly, try to raise that or quarter of that amount. We were pushed almost to death to raise our money, we actually sold ~~the~~^{the} articles of clothing etc, to our neighbours to procure the money. We were never so pinched in our lives as we are now. I do not say it by way of complaint for we have got health and

every thing to be thankful for, but just to let you know
how we are situated. We have been obliged to do with
out wheat flour and butter all winter with the excep-
tion of a week or two, and now our only meat is tur-
key. I want you to see if I have not had as hard
a time almost as ever you had though I rather think
not. For we have had a comfortable house and
and with few exceptions our health has been excellent.
We are now trying to build and I almost fear some-
times that we shall not be able to complete our
house for want of a little money. We are expecting
money from New Jersey, but it is very doubtful when
we get it. We fear that the executors are so much in-
terested in the money themselves that they will not
bring in the money as soon as it is due. That is what
of age almost five years. Poor Rask is tempted some-
times to despair and give up entirely but then he
thinks that the ~~will~~ ^{will} be in the hands of one who does
not willingly afflict us. Besides in our minds and
makes us feel that it is for some wise purpose that
we are thus tried. And indeed we know it is
for by the blessing of God it has been of great
benefit for, in all our trials we have enjoyed God's
presence more than we have ever done before and
I can safely say that I have never been more truly happy

than I have been this winter for I have been able to
"let my affections on things above" more completely than
I ever did before, and I sincerely trust and believe that
if called this day to leave all my earthly friends
dear as they are to me, I could go cheerfully.
We are not at all gloomy or melancholy, but on the
contrary are almost always in good spirits. Little ^{Mabel} was
plump as ever, and is the joy of our hearts. Father
many words quite plain, he calls you "Mama" and
says "benty" very plain, he can say "Thank" too
but Charles is almost too kind a name for him to
speak very distinctly although he attempts to say it.
I am anxious to write to you. Can I say if Robert
I was ~~tempted~~ ^{tempted} to leave for a while but I
al. I hope she will do well in her studies but after
but don't let the children injure themselves in the study
now that the warm weather is coming on. I wish you
could make us a visit soon. I trust that next
year if our lives and health are spared we shall
be so situated as to make you comfortable at our
house, if so you will try and come about going.
We have a beautiful situation and it will take
but a little while, if we are prospered to make things
comfortable. Horatio sends love to all. Remember me
to all the friends of my acquaintance. Kiss the children
for me and little Mabel. Do let the children

often or write you with as often as possible. He does
us so much good to hear from you.

Good Bye dear Mother, God bless and keep you
ever yours. your dear daughter
Charlotte.

1874

For
Mr. A. Clark
George Street
Barnstable
Mass.
Chic.

Barnstable
Mass.
11th May 74

Will Mary that Daisy has a fine calf or calf
and Fair Weather.

Flat Rock Jan 14th 1839

My dear, dear, mother,

I rec'd your kind letter a week or two since and I do assure you that I wish it were possible for us to follow the course you there marked out for us, but I fear it is entirely out of the question. At the time your letter arrived Horatio was confined to his bed, and Isabella was lying on the floor just getting over a pretty hard shake of your favorite complaint. Ruth was pretty sick for about a week, but since then they have both recovered, the baby and I still continue very well. The news that your letter contained that is that we should probably get some money this summer ~~and~~ ^{as they appear} for which that we shall be able to complete our house and buy or some necessary, and if we once get on our farm and get it started I have no fear that we shall suffer. We have been more distressed for the want of a few hundred dollars for the last 6 months than you can well imagine. Had we been able to raise that much early in the spring we might have finished our house enclosed part of our farm and got some crop in to the ground that would ^{have} brought us in some thing considerable, as it is the whole spring has been necessarily wasted and we are now waiting for money before we can do a single thing. Mr Gwynne wrote to H. a short time since and his letter was answered as soon as rec'd. so that probably by the first or middle of July we shall be able to go to work again. One month's work on the house would render it habitable so that if Providence permits we shall

be able to move by the middle of August. I feel impatient to
be out there, for I know that Wash will feel much better when
he once gets out there and can busy himself improving what
he looks upon as a permanent home. It is a very pleasant
place, I have been there a number of times, the house will
be very convenient one large room down stairs and two
bedrooms, a paring 8 feet by 10 so high will be a great comfort
a nice porch and a tight woodshed which we can use for
a cook-room in warm weather, and as we shall need
very little help we can cook very comfortably in the large
room when the weather is cool, up stairs we have a large
bedroom, although the house is but a story and a half high,
and a smaller bed room for Isabella. Now the large bed
room is for you and your family when you make a
visit which certainly must not be delayed longer than
next summer. We shall then be very comfortably settled and
I do not see why you cannot come and see us, it would be
such a comfort to us and you would be able then to see
just how we were situated, I think it will be very plea-
sant there, besides all the rooms I have mentioned there is
a cellar under all the house dry and comfortable and
next winter I think it will be pretty well filled.

We shall be able to procure very good water by digging from
15 to 20 feet and we shall have a fine garden spot near the
house. Wash intends too to set out a young orchard as soon
as we can prepare ground for it. All about us will be very
convenient and comfortable and all that we shall want
will be neighbours. The nearest house is a mile from us

and that has no one in it now. I may say that the near-
est neighbour is a mile and a half from us although there
is a prospect of the country's being settled soon. I have been
writing to Louise this week and urging her strongly to come
out here. There is an improved farm for sale within two
miles of us, ^{adjoining our farm} which I am anxious they should get, it would
be so pleasant to have them near us I do not know what
they will think of it but I hope, favourably.

Dear Mother I believe I am in debt to you about \$15 and I
have been much hurt that I have not been able to pay
you before but if you can let us know the amount it will
make it right in paying your taxes this year. Had I had the least thought that I should be
obliged to remain in debt so long I should not have
borrowed of you, but now it will be in our power to make
it all right I hope. I wish for your sake that the
could be disposed of, but I suppose at present, that
the taxes I am afraid will eat it up.

How are the dear children. Mary has not written me that
May-day letter yet, at all events I have not received it yet.
Tell her that her great cousin, Henry Chapin of New York is to
be married to Mr. Wright of that city. How truly I guide
after Mary with affectionate regard, tell her not to be too
hard-hearted, I tell how that if he does not get married this
summer I will not own him for a brother. He made us
a visit a short time since and I think I loved him better
every time I see him. Malcolm has eight teeth and is cutting
more he cuts them without much trouble. Wash wishes me to
say that his letter to Mr. Gwynne was sent to the next post

Tell Mary that David Wallace
and Jennie Hicks are to be
married soon. Co.

Remains very affectionately to Aunt Suzanne and Mrs
Atton and all my old friends. Last speak of your family's
not having been very pleasant last winter, who was the un-
pleasant member? I rather suspect and old acquaintance
of yours though not a very dear friend I believe. Hope Mrs
Dysanpton's children be by you or do they remain at school?
Tell Mrs Atton I should be happy to receive a letter from
her. Give much love to the dear children and Mary also

West Rock June 20th 1831

Dear Mother,

My not having written to you for so long a time may appear like wilful neglect, but if you have for a moment indulged such thoughts I beg of you to banish them from your mind, and believe that it was not from want of inclination that I have so long maintained silence. I assure you that John and Jonathan have been for some time while they are here very home and wholly absorbed up in their household affairs. As to me, I have been exactly as to the rest of the family, still at home at present but too much occupied to do as much as we formerly did. I have been in such a way as to make them comfortable, my having been in prospect of having the carriage for some time off - back in two and then we should have sufficient room to make us very comfortable, sitting that side my house is much occupied in repairing bonds and it does seem almost impossible to sit down long enough to write. However I mean to try, and be more punctual hereafter and hope after this long apology you will consider me honorably acquitted. I hope to write next to day to you and I shall also have some few lines and then I shall be for weeks. I do long to see you to have a long talk for I cannot commit all my thoughts to paper, still I will do my best. Give my love to all the family. I have enjoyed my health, especially since I have been in the country. I have been in the country since I have been in the country.

directed to the care of the commanding officer
and get Major Gwynne to write to him inform-
ing him of it.

For several days past Schultze has been con-
stantly sick at his stomach, so that he does
not appear to keep a particle of food on his
stomach.



Mr. Schultze

Philadelphia

Platypus of



at a distance. You the
and his dear paper and
the day and I would
you in a short time
to the

I think you will bring his wife out here in the
fall. We think somewhat of Mercantile business.
How do the Cincinnati people bear the pressure
in the money market these days? Is your money
safe? I often think it was well that it was
not left in New York, for you might have lost
it. I have not room to say anything to the

I forgot to
 tell Mary of the
 marriage of
 Lucy Chapel
 to Mr. Briggs.
 See I tell
 her that Miss
 Atrop was
 married to
 Mr. Lyon?
 Jane thinks
 I was married
 to David Wells
 about this time
 since, Mary Hall
 was married to
 last I ought to
 a Mr. Littlefield
 Mrs. Heath's brother
 is about
 to be in a very
 short time war
 married to a man
 living in Erie
 Perfect Heaven
 so much for
 that. Nov. 1839
 now
 Mary you ought
 to write me a
 letter for a change
 Nov. 6.

but have not felt sufficiently settled or at home
 before, to write although you may see by the date
 that I have made an attempt before. We have
 not yet recovered although we are better. Horatio
 however has fever every other day and it seems
 possible to break it, ^{entirely but} his attack to-day is very
 light and I think he will now get better. We
 have succeeded in breaking the ague on Phalcolm and
 he is improving rapidly. Isabella is still quite unwell
 at times and I occasionally have a slight chill
 just to keep me in mind of what the ague is.
 It is highly probable I think that we shall all be
 liable to similar attacks all winter whenever we
 over-exert or expose ourselves, but we must be
 careful. Next week I expect to get a first-rate
 woman who will remain with me as long as I
 want her, and that will be until I regain my
 strength entirely. Have you come to any decision
 as to where you shall remain to? as yet we
 have not been able to find out what it would
 be necessary for you to know about Detroit before

you would be willing to move there, but we
had news from Mipouri last Saturday which may
perhaps alter your plans somewhat. Mr Dancip writes
that there is a farm adjoining his, belonging to a non-
resident who is anxious to sell it, both he and Lou-
isa are anxious very anxious that we should buy it
and live near them. Mr D. offers to lend Kash
\$1000, 00 towards buying it and, ^{perhaps by reaching} ~~probably~~ ~~it~~
and securing, we may have enough to purchase it.
At all events with the blessing of God we mean
to try, for our health has been so poor since we
have been here that we do not feel that we do
right in staying here, and we would be willing
to sacrifice our property here to a considerable
extent if we could ~~by that~~ means obtain ~~it~~ to
answer our object. It would certainly give us great
pleasure to have near our dear brother and sister, and
Mr D. has certainly made us a very kind offer, and
has thereby shown us the sincerity of his attachment
we feel that it is impossible for us to live happily
here for it is very unhealthy, we have prayed that
a way might be opened for us to find another and
pleasanter home, and God seems to have answered
our prayer. We shall ^{therefore} ~~probably~~ ~~if nothing prevents~~
set our faces towards Cincinnati as early in the Spring
as possible make you a visit and try to persuade

you to ~~come~~ ~~as possible~~ ~~then set our faces~~ ~~towards~~ ~~Cincinnati~~
and find if practicable a permanent home.
We feel very thankful that a way has been opened for
us to leave this place; for really it is very disagreeable, the
climate is unhealthy, the people are illiterate, quar-
relsome, vulgar and every thing else but such soci-
ety as I have been accustomed to. The church is in
a deplorable condition and I feel as if we were
shut out from civilized society. We are very
much attached to Dancip and Louisa and the
idea of being near them has pretty nearly set me
crazy, then too I shall have an opportunity of ma-
king you another visit and then we can ~~plan~~
it all over and have a real ~~planning~~ ~~visit~~
may all one day live together. Indeed if you
do not go to Mipouri now, I do intend as soon
as we get comfortably settled there to have you make
your home with us that is if you can be happy
and comfortable with us. Thursday 24th. We are all
wonderfully better today and I feel in very good spirits.
Deacon little Shalcolm has just brought me in some
lettuce for dinner" as he says, he speaks very plain
and is a darling child, how I long to cheer him to
see him and how anxious I am to see you all. ~~If~~ ~~the~~
spring is favorable we shall probably be able to leave in April
about six months that will pass quickly away and then I
shall be happy to see you all again, write soon and tell us

My dear mother. After a long siege of sickness I now
begin to call myself a convalescent. Charlotte has told you
that we think of going to Missouri. Leaviss has made me
so free an offer that I cannot resist it. I have suffered so
much from sickness since I have been here, particularly the
year, that I think the sooner I leave this country the better.

Miss Charlotte, Anne & Clark

George Hunt

Cincinnati

Ohio

If we should go to Missouri, I hope to see you all in the
spring. We will come by the way of Cincinnati. And
whenever you wish to pay us a visit all you will
have to do will be to step on board of the Cavalier
and you can soon be at our house.

Give much love to the children

Your dutiful son A. H. C. Lewis

Flat 1111 November 7th 1839
 What a comfort it is that we can
 have our dear friends, however distant they
 may be, the greatest that I have in this
 ignorance and un-sociality is a letter from
 my mother, and when I learn that you
 are doing well, I forget for the mo-
 ment where I am, and imagine myself beside
 you, and it is something before I can come down
 to visit you myself to suit the society with which
 I am associated, but such a treat I have not had
 for some time, and I am almost afraid that
 the next time I shall not be disappointed.
 You must know that I have received my letter
 of our intention of going to Missouri
 by our passing through Cin-
 cinnati, my letter Houston has been
 sent to us that it would be far cheaper
 for us to go this winter by

land through Chicago, or Michigan City and
cross Illinois to Quincy 20 miles from Mr. Larp's
farm. Horatio owns a wagon which we could cover
and fix very comfortably, I have a foot-stove which
will keep our feet warm, and by taking our
time to it, resting when we are tired, and wrap-
ping up warm, we may have a very pleasant
trip. By going this way we shall save nearly
half the expense, get there earlier in time to be-
gin farming operations, and be enabled to take many
things with us which we should otherwise be obli-
ged to leave here to be sent by water or to sell
at a great sacrifice. The disappointment of not
seeing you, ^{my spring} had decided the latter to
be the better plan was very great, but this motto
I begin to find out is made up of anticipation
and disappointment and we must school our-
selves to bear it, which we can do by placing en-
tire confidence in "Him who loves us" and who does
not willingly afflict us. "But dear mother Mr. Lar-
p is determined that you shall come to Wisconsin
too, so that we may have a little society four of us
and would it not be pleasant, he says you must
not make the want of good schools, and for
between you, Louisa, and myself, he says they can
be as well educated, and at no expense

Now dear mother, why can't you tell us, we cannot tell you
how happy we should be, and then ^{Horatio says} you would be just
as well off at the end of the year as you are now
with all the exertions you make which we fear
is too much for you. He says too that often could
cover all your expenses with the rent of your
house and have something left, for we should
be able to live very cheap there. There is a fine range
for the children on the prairie, Larp says the air is
pure and bracing, you might ride out back every
day, you would have nothing to do when you were
not inclined and I do really think you must not
work hard any more. Now mother, just
back the time when you would have given words
to have had your dear mother with you for the com-
fort of having her counsel and advice on matters
in which you were less experienced. The pleasure
it would be to have her near you, and try to re-
alize how I feel now. I am a great baby I know
and can hardly go alone yet, sometimes I feel as if
I was much in need of your advice and assis-
tance, but when I think of the miles which lie be-
tween us I cannot keep from crying and ask my-
self why it should be so. Ruth is much attached
to you and nothing would give him greater plea-

Mrs Charlotte A. Clark
George Street
Bancroft
Ohio.

1001

from you after you receive this letter and shall live in hope that you have approved of it. If you knew what a sweet grand-son you had you could not hesitate a moment, and if you could hear him say "Gunny-mum" in his sweet voice and see his bright laughing eyes, you would wonder that you had been

Flat Rock Dec 6, 1839

My dear Mother

We are all busy preparing for our journey Westward, and are in good spirits; we expect to start about the first of January. The roads across the Country are said to be excellent. A short time since, Houston saw a man who had been to the Mississippi the last summer, in a waggon, with a considerable load, ~~who~~ said the road was first rate, and that he went out in ten days. I think the latter is rather doubtful, I will be satisfied if I can make the journey in twenty days. We have had some more sickness in our family. Malcolm has been cutting his eye teeth, and I think he caught cold. His face was very much swelled, and he suffered so much that we feared some times that he might be thrown into fits. This

morning he appears to be very well. Isabelle has also been very sick with a fever and affection of the liver. We had fears at one time that she might not live. She is also quite well now.

I hope after we get settled in Missouri we will be able to give you so favorable an account of the Country and climate, that you may be easily prevailed on to come and live with us.

We are very anxious to hear when Malcolm is and what he is doing. I am glad that I did not turn my attention to Engineering. The hard times have put a stop to the public works in this State, and in several of the other States. Many Engineers have been thrown out of employment.

Give much love to the Children and our best respects to Mrs. Alston & family.

Affectionately your Son

A. P. Van Cleave

Dear Mother,

I have stolen time to write you a few lines for we are so much engaged in preparing to leave this borough that I hardly find leisure to breathe. We have had considerable sickness for a few weeks past and I have been unable to do any thing but nurse the sick so that my time will now be fully occupied the remainder of this month, in making ready to leave, the first of 1840. You cannot wonder that we are rejoiced at the idea of leaving a place where we have had so much sickness, and although we cannot expect to run and avoid disease and death, still I must think that there are many places which are much more healthy than this. We were distressed to hear that you and the children had been so ill, and we are in hopes that you are long in this enjoying your usual good health. There is one thing dear mother, that I want to speak to you about, as it causes me much anxiety. My dear Mother's health, I have always feared that she was predisposed to decline and really I do not think that too close application now will be of benefit in future. I wish much that she could relax a little in her studies, particularly as she has so lately been ill. and it is my candid opinion that if she could have a more regular sleep that her mind

provement this next year both of body and mind
would be very sensible. If you could all make a
visit at least next summer it strikes me that it
would be of benefit to all concerned. It is not sel-
fishness alone I assure you that prompts me to make
this proposition but I think it would be for the

love to hear that he is day & night
done to other states and willing to a
dignity. Chastity sends love
his heart but they and protect my
one, your affectionate daughter

good of both you and the children. Mary preserves
such a strict silence that I am sometimes tempted to
think she has formed a runaway match or something else
that might disgrace the blood of the Seymours. if she
is still alive and able, I should be much pleased to hear
from her. So subscribe with you yet. I feel very anx-