



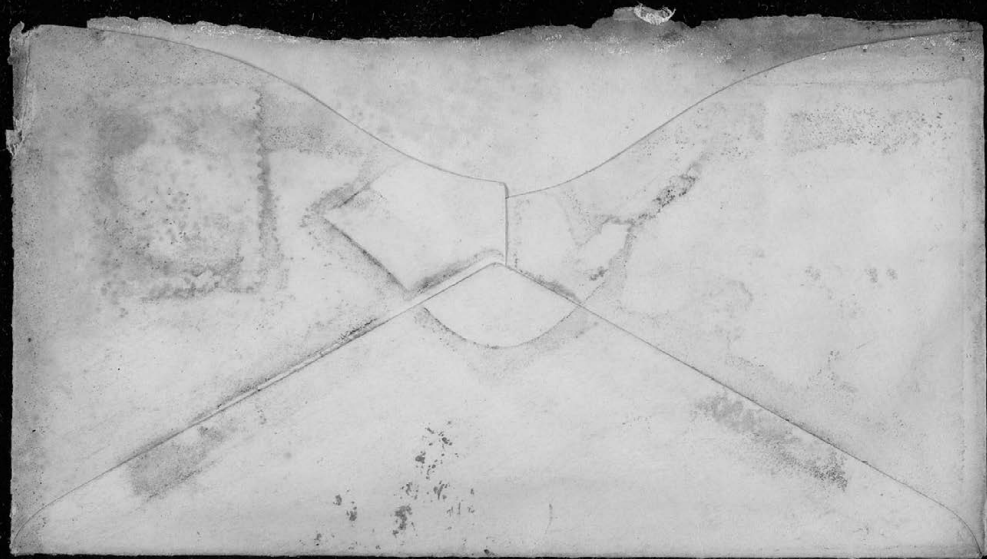
Horatio P. Van Cleve and
family papers.

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Mr. A. D. Chandler
St. Anthony
Minnesota



1838
Cincinnati March 31

My Dear Child,

I recd. your very welcome letter last evening, and while Mary is out making her final arrangements to leave, I have seated myself to give you details. - first we shall go toushing by the middle of May, perhaps sooner; Mary wishes to spend a few days in Boston, a short time at Brooklyn, and the remainder of the time with Ellen; Mr. Lincoln will join her there - (as he cannot sooner leave his business) and expects to sail about the last of the month. Mr. L. expects to be again in Cincinnati early in September - as soon as I see Ellen, shall write you her plans for the summer; Lucius's vacation commences in July - I am delighted with your account of the childrens progress, and that John is distinguishing himself, he is

right to feel proud. They know that as
children of Pioneers, much is expected
from all of them - am glad that Paul
is studying German and that all are
making your heart, glad and thankful.
I rec'd a most excellent letter from Ellen.
~~She is a few days home, and I intend to~~
immediately write all you know of Melcher's
plans, Ellen speaks very hopefully, he is a
very excellent and good girl - have you
heard any thing more of Mollie? I feel a
little anxious about her - tell Mollie
that I shall ^{hope, that} still she will make an
exception to her rule, in my case, and
send her Photograph with Seymours -
I believe that I have not told you, that
the House is to be rented finished,
and Mr L is to board with the family,
as it will be more home like,
My health is now much better, and the
fine weather, and bright sun is renewing
my strength - give much love to all my
friends, I have still hopes of seeing them

them again - respects to Mr Reeves and
family - what do you think of the
state of things at Washington? I hope
that ^{you} think with me, that Mr Chase
is the only man, under Providence who
is capable of enabling our political
ships, to ~~withstand~~ ^{weather} this terrible storm -
tell the boys that Grandma is feeling very
proud of them, and sends much love -
all are well, and desire love, as
Mary so much occupied I have appointed
myself, letter writer for the family, with
which you must be satisfied -
do write as often as possible, much
love to Mollie & Mollie is anticipating
much happiness from her visit to you
all, you have heard that Mr Thomson
is dead after a lingering illness, with
much suffering - much love to the
Girl, and may God bless you

Your affectionate Mother

Mrs C. C. C. C.

C. C. C. C.

Flat Rock Nov. 28. 1839.

My dear Sister

I rec^d your annual message a short time since and I have answered it immediately but— but— but—

It was not my intention my dear Sister that you should ever return what I advanced towards your piano, but as you do not appear to stand in need of it, and I being somewhat crowded at present, I will draw on uncle H. for it, as he advised me. — We are preparing to leave this part of the world, and go to Missouri. We expect to start about the 1st of January 1840. — We intend to go in a waggon; it is only 600 miles, and if the roads are fair I think we can make the journey in about 20 days.

We have been to Ipsilanti this fall, and spent some time with John's family. They are very pleasantly situated. John is on a fine farm, and has every opportunity to do well. I hope he may be prospered. They all enjoy good health. — We have had a great deal of sickness in our family this fall, or rather since the 1st of August. Since we have been here, I have been sick about one third of the time. I am in hopes we may enjoy better health in Missouri. You must make up your mind to pay us a good long visit when we get there. You may go as far as Cincinnati sometime with Cousin Dick Phillips. From Cincinnati, Steamboats run within nine miles of where we are going, and we can easily find an escort for you. But before we invite you to Missouri we had better, get there ourselves; Nevertheless, I feel very anxious

to see you, for we have been a long time separated, my dear sister. — I have heard it reported that sister has two more children, than she had, when I was in New Haven; but as I have no official information of it, of course I cannot be certain of it. We send love however for four. I have but one, and a fine a boy as you ever saw. A real good child; none of your noisy fellows, excepting in play; he seldom cries. We intend to run him for the presidency of the United States, in the year, 1888. He is not a beauty, but we think he has a fine, noble face. He talks much better than children generally do at his age. We have always talked to him in plain English. So much for my boy. I have boasted of him enough, have I not? By the by the poor little fellow had a stake of the ague this morning, but was as lively as a cricket this evening.

Charlotte is expecting a letter from you giving her the New Haven news. She often says she would like to hear some of the particulars of Mrs Stitt's death. When will

you spend the winter? In N.Y. or in
 Phil.? — I was in Ypsilanti last week.
 John & family were all well. Houston
 pays us a visit occasionally. He appears
 to enjoy good health.

Brownstown
 Mich Dec 29- 25
 H.P.V.

Miss Margaret F. Vancluse
 care of Prof. J. W. Gibbs
 New Haven
 Conn.

As we were frequently from you
 have done her before
 from our mother's direction.

Charlotte sends much love to you, & to
 Sister, Mr Gibbs and the children. Give love
 to all from me. How we sh^d like to see you
 all. — I hope, Sister dear, you will fulfill
 the promise made in your letter, and write

do not think Charlotte does our boy justice
in her letter to her friends. She surely has not
been equal and the father; I say this father
of the Rock, Dec. 17th 1838

Dear Margaret,

Your very welcome letter was rec'd
two weeks since and would have been answered in-
stantly, had not indisposition prevented me.
I have had the ague in my breast ever since my return
home and have suffered more than you can well
imagine, it has been lanced already twice and
is gathering again, I fear I am to be troubled with
it more or less all winter, with this exception my
health is very good. Horatio is very well and in
good spirits and our baby is the dearest pet that
ever was seen, I wish you could see him, he is a
real Panclive, his eyes are as blue as they can
well be, and Aunt Phillips thought he looked
very much like you. I am sure you must feel
anxious to see him.

I am very glad that you are so pleasantly situated
and am glad that it is such a gratification
to Uncle Chauncey to have you with him.

Do you prefer New Haven to Philadelphia? Well and

so should I as a residence, although of all the large cities I have visited, Philadelphia is my favorite.

We heard from Louisa last week, they are well and happy. Loay seems very much pleased with Missouri and I am very glad of it.

No doubt it is a very fine country but its being a slave-state is a great objection to it in my opinion.

John and his family are very well and are much pleased with Ypsilanti, it is a very pleasant little place, our little town is not so large but I am very well contented with it and never was happier in my life.

Houston is well and has promised to visit us next week.

When do you mean to make up your mind to come and spend a year among us? we shall always be glad to see you, but we must find you a bean I suppose, well when Hous goes on to get married you must make up your mind to come out with him, if he is not so old by that time that he can not take charge of any one but

himself and his bride. Poor fellow I wish he felt rich enough to get married.

Louisa's little boy is very sweet and Louisa writes that he is becoming very interesting, I have not seen any babies of their age that exceed your little nephews in smartness or beauty. Little Mary Louisa is very pretty and looks very sweet as she tottles about the floor.

I should like very much to see the little nieces in New Haven; perhaps one of these days we may make a visit to the east. I hope we may be able for what is the only way in which we shall ever see sister again.

I intend to try and write to her to-day, we seldom hear from her but I suppose we must not blame her for her silence for I can judge somewhat of the care necessary for three children since my boy takes up so much of my time and attention.

Horatio sends much love, remember us both affectionately to Uncle Houston, the baby sends a kiss. Answer this soon if possible.

Believe me ever your affectionate sister
Charlotte

My dear Sister. If you did but know how much
your letter delighted us you w^d write once
in two or three weeks. We must not forget one
another in this world or we may fail to recog-
nize our brothers and sisters in the world of
spirits; think of that. — I intend now
to turn my attention to farming, particularly
to raising stock, — cattle & sheep &c. I have

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Barnston
Wm. D. B.

Charlotte O. V. Miss Margaret F. Vanduse
Care of C. Barnston
38 South Front St.

Philadelphia

Be sure you write to me
and send me your all
in the summer of your
brother's name

a farm of 400 acres well calculated for
the purpose. — We hope that the time will
come when our dear Sister will be able
to pay us a visit, and spend some time
with us. Do not get married before you
come to see us.

Cincinnati Sept. 14th 1838.

Dear Margaret,

Allow me to introduce to you the bearer of this epistle Mr Abram Gwynne of this place he will probably spend one more year at your far-famed college; and as our families are very intimate it would be pleasant for him to be acquainted with any one so nearly connected as yourself. He is thought a young man of fine talents, the only son of one of the wealthiest men in the west and in every way calculated to rich the affections of so discerning a young female as yourself. His youth perhaps may be an objection as he is but 17. Suffice it to say, as a last recommendation that about eight years ago, he was a great beam of your humble servant, and affectionate sister -

Here I am on a visit to my dear mother, made in a great measure for the purpose of shewing her, her first and only grand son Master Malcolm Clark Vanclue. We have been here two months, during which time I have been very far from well or you should have heard from me long since. Dear Horatio left us the week after our arrival, and returned to Flat Rock. I am now expecting him hourly, and expect to set my face Michigan-wards soon after his arrival.

When I last heard from our Michigan friends they were all well. I have heard from you through Louisa (who you must know passed through here on her way to Missouri) several weeks since. You were then in Philadelphia but probably ere this you have returned to the land of steady habits. How is dear sister and all the family? I am sorry we do not keep up a more regular correspondence. It is some times months between our eastern letters. I suppose you do not find time to write since you came out, however once in a while just drop a line to let us know that you are alive and well. I wish you could see your little nephew, I imagine you would be very proud of him, you would be obliged to own him at all events for he would not pass for any thing but a Banckler. Ask sister if he is not a large child, at four months old he weighed $21\frac{1}{2}$ pounds, he is now seven and although we have not weighed him, still we conclude from his visible increase in size that he weighs over 25. He can creep and can get up on his feet by a chain, although we do not urge his walking in the least. Louisa's baby is a fine looking child quite large and a very manly little fellow. As much for the babies, perhaps it will not be very interesting to you, but if not just hand it to sister and she can enter into my feelings.

How are all my New Haven friends? Mrs. Atthorpe, etc.

I never hear from them now, nearly all my old school-mates here are married, but you eastern damsels do not take the cases of matrimony on your shoulders as soon as we do.

I wish dear Wash was here to write to you also you may think your brother has forgotten you but I assure you he thinks of you a great deal and if times were not so hard, we should certainly do ourselves the pleasure of making you a visit this fall. Tell sister ^{I trust} she will get see us in New Haven, I wish it was a possible thing for us to reside there, for of all the cities and towns that I have visited, New Haven is my favorite.

Mother wishes to be kindly remembered to all your family, Malcolm sends his respects, and little John sends much love and a kiss to all particularly his little cousins, kiss the children for me love to Mr Gibbs and sister.

With much love I remain

your affectionate sister

Charlotte Bander

Thurs. even. Oct. 4, all week
at New Haven 1.42.

Care of Churchill Houston Esq.
South Front Street
Char. O.V. Philadelphia



Amesbury
Amesbury

Miss Margaret F. Bayne
~~Prof. F. B. Bayne~~
~~Amesbury~~
~~Amesbury~~

Flat Rock May 1st 1838.

My, precious sister

I have taken it into my head this evening to astonish you with a letter, not that I wd wish to put you to the trouble of answering it;—Far be it from me, ~~to~~ impose such a task on my Sister: but it is merely to let you know that I am alive & this side of the Rocky mountains.—

We had letters from Davess and Souder about two weeks since. Davess seems determined to leave the Army next fall. I wish much that we could offer him some inducement to come here. He will doubtless go to Missouri, and "throw his sword into a ploughshare". He gave me a full statement of his plans, and I cannot but think he wd do better there, than he c^d here. If Missouri were not a slave state I sh^d like to be there myself.

John expects to take his family to Springfield next fall, (twenty miles distant). we will then be left here alone. I cannot bear the idea of their leaving us. We have but

little Society here, and when they are gone
we will be very lonely.

Our little boy is now almost three months
old. He has been blessed with excellent health,
is very fat, and has never ^{had} crying fits. He
has sometimes cried for a few moments, when
hungry or when hurt; and occasionally when
his mother dresses ^{him} he gets a little out of hu-
mor. We have every reason to thank God for
his goodness to us.

Do you ever think that you ^{could} spend three or
four months in Michigan? We wd like it much if
you ^{could} pay us a visit, before you put it entire-
ly out of your power by getting married. By the
by do you ever think of taking such a step?
I sh^d like much to know what you are about.
You sh^d write occasionally to let us know
how you spend your time.

May 7th John's family are all well; I have been trou-
bled with a fever (remittent) for the last se-
ven weeks, - so much that I have been con-
fined to my house most of the time. Charlotte
enjoys excellent health.

Give much love to my dear sister Hall.
I suppose Anna, has grown quite tall.
Your brother Ruth

I left this page for Charlotte but she has been
so constantly engaged with our little Malcolm
that she has not been able to take up the pen.

Brownstown Mich.
May 8 1838 }

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Miss M. F. Van Cleave

Rash

Prof. J. W. Gibbs

New Haven
Conn.

Flat Rock Aug 31st 1837

My dear, Sweet Sister Mary.

Autimette just rec^d a letter from you & she tells me you are in the damps: Now if this be so, - if you are thus afflicted in the goodly city of New Haven, surrounded by so much learning and science, how must we be, who live in such a wild, rude country, as this. Our neighbors think our learning is amply sufficient if he can read without spelling more than half, and write his name almost intelligibly, that is so he can read it himself before it is dry. — But we are not troubled with enure here, and set down with the damps, and I have been thinking that a trip here next spring would cure you, if you are much afflicted. To be serious dear sister, I have had some hopes, that you might pay as a

visit next spring. You must think of it, & tell sister she must not scold — John & I are very busy now preparing for winter. I trust we will do well here; — (Sept 12th I was interrupted when I had written thus far and have so constantly engaged that I have not had time to sit down to write.) We enjoy excellent health and there is but little sickness in the neighborhood. If we enjoy good health, and have enough to eat and drink and what to clothe ourselves, have we not abundant reason to be thankful to him from whom we receive all our blessings and comforts. But I have constantly to lament over a cold and ungrateful heart. If the Lord does not give me riches, he has given me every thing else that I could desire, above all other worldly gifts he has given me the best of wives, one who is in every way calculated to ^{make} me happy.

Do you hear from Louisa often, she has been moving some during the last summer. I should like to know how she likes my old quarters, at Brimago. She has not written to us since she has

been there. — You must not complain sister dear if Charlotte does not write. It is but seldom that she can snatch a few moments to write to her mother. We have quite a family, and a very poor servant, and Charlotte has no one to assist her in preparing ^{winter} clothing for herself or any new comers, (that may be expected in January). — Farewell, sister dear, Charlotte wishes to add a few lines, and if my sister Margaret wd occasionally send her a line, I know it wd add to her happiness.
Aunt's.

Dear Margaret,

It is so seldom that I write to any one now-a-days that I hardly know how to begin or carry on a letter, but I thought I must certainly write you a few lines and let you know that I still think of you and love you much. My health has been good this summer but I have nevertheless not felt very comfortable, and have so much to do that I can scarcely find time to think of any thing but household affairs. We are all very well. Homer and have very much to be thankful for. How dear sister and the little ones, I do not think you can imagine how much happiness it would afford me to see you all, but I can not tell when we shall be able

to visit our Eastern friends, still I hope you will take
 Rash's hint and make us a visit the first opportu-
 nity; we shall all be very happy to see you and
 I think you have enough friends in this part of the
 world to make it worth your while. Do write whenever
 you ~~can~~ and do not wait for an old married woman

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HPV

Miss Margaret J. Vanderveer
 Prof. J. W. Gibbs
 New Haven
 Conn.

interesting record here and
 Billy a dear () to whom I wrote
 recently. In other words I often see and
 enjoy

Brownstown
 Mich Sept 12

like me. Remember me to all my old friends. Give my
 love to Sister Mr Gibbs and the dear children. Do you ever
 hear from the girls in New York? I should like much to
 to find time to write to them but that is out of the question.
 Good Bye dear Maggy May our Heavenly Father bless and
 protect you is the sincere prayer of your affectionate sister
 Charlotte.

Dayton November 8th 1836

My dear Maggie

Your very acceptable letter was rec'd a few days since and I can assure you that it was a great consolation to see that you had not forgotten me.

I could not expect that your dear sister would write me knowing as I did the extremely delicate state of her health but I did think that after Louisa got settled at Green Bay she might have dropped me a line in answer to a very long letter which I wrote to her before leaving home; but although Mr. Davis has written twice she has never written so much as a postscript to either of us. But I will not complain of her treatment for in every letter she promises me a letter soon, and I shall just wait patiently till that time comes.

We are at present staying at Uncle Phillips' but think somewhat of spending the winter at Troy in this state. Our plans for the future however are very unsettled, but although we have been for a long time perplexed as to what course we shall pursue we never have regretted leaving the army.

Ma is staying at the Hotel in town, but will go with us if we go to Troy this winter. She had a pleasant journey back and was much pleased with

her trip. Horatio went to Monroe to see Houston a few weeks since. He was very well and much pleased with Monroe.

Cousin Maryanna has another daughter both are very well. I have been thinking for a long time of writing to the school-girls but do not know the directions of all of them and I have for a long time been so unsettled at home that it had been almost impossible for me to write you my love to all to whom you write and all you see, you must also remember me affectionately to dear Miss Aphorpe and her daughters and also to my dear Mrs. Litch and Florence. We should have been very happy to make you a visit this summer but we felt the necessity of being economical and denied ourselves that pleasure. When we get rich however you may expect to see us. ^{as} Rather will add a post script.

Love to all

^{as} Believe me with much affection &
your dear sister Charlotte.

My Sweet Sister, You have had reason to complain of my negligence, but I have been travelling so much of late and have been so unsettled that I have had no disposition to write. — We are now in Dayton thinking when we shall go next. Our plans for the future are not yet

fixed upon. — It is possible that I may settle near Monroe. We will then be near enough to New York for you to pay us a visit should you ever feel so disposed. After we get into a house of our own you shall have a formal invitation. — Yours appears to be well pleased with Monroe and I think he intends to invite Sally and then one of these days. I hope he may do well. — I feel deeply for Mrs. Howell & her family. They have indeed been afflicted. — It distresses me to learn that Sister's health is so delicate. Give much love to her from both Charlotte & me. We too have much to pay you a visit but cannot at present. I was somewhat surprised (but not much) to hear of Uncle Brown's marriage. I wish him much happiness. — Do you think of getting married soon? Mary is appears to be the order of the day. —

I am glad to hear of your progress in music. — Do you continue to be fond of it? How does the "Whistle-bough" flourish?

I had a letter from Mr. Stevens a short time since. He & his lady were well.

Kiss the little ones I remember you to the Little Gittys.
God bless you all

Your brother Horatio.



25

Miss Margaret F. Van Cleave
Care of Prof. J. W. Gibbs
New Haven

Nov. 8, 36

C. 2 H P V.

Conn.

Fort Winnebago July 15th 1836

Dear Maggie,

Although I write to Louisa by this mail I wish to write also to you in order that you may follow my example and be punctual.

You have probably seen Ma ere this, and she has told you all the news; but as to news we have home here, it is a very dull place, and were it not that I am constantly occupied I should hardly feel contented to remain here three months longer. With all its monotony, however and the its great distance from any other place it will ever be a place of much interest to me -

It was here that I first met your dear brother, it is the scene of our courtship and marriage, and it was here too that I watched the last moments of my idolized father; in this place he now reposes and this last fact will always make me feel a sort of melancholy affection for the place.

The want of society is a great drawback upon the fort were this difficulty obviated I should like it much.

I am in hopes we shall not repent having left the army, and I do not think we shall, my attachments and propensities were you know very strong, but

I have endeavored to overcome them, as I felt convinced it was much to our interest to do so. I only hope that we shall soon be joined by our dear friends Mr. Davis and Louy. I know the reason he will not resign just now; he feels too proud of his dear wife (that is to be and I hope is) to take her right into the woods before he has shown her to the Regiment, and well he may for it is not every officer that gets such a wife.

But he will not feel satisfied after they have once seen her, that she should remain at a frontier post he will take her somewhere, where there may in the course of a few years (if there is not now) be an enlightened society; this is one reason my husband assigns for resigning, "he cannot bear to have his wife shut out from society all her life."

I anticipate much pleasure from my visit to Dayton. I am only fearful now that Louy will not get here until we have left, if that is the case I shall miss her again and then I shall begin to think that she is going to dodge me all the rest of my life.

I feel very badly to think of your dear sister's ill health. I want to see her very much, indeed I should be delighted to pay you a visit, but we must wait till we have made our fortunes.

Tell the girls that I wrote to them all soon after I was

married, and I don't know what can have become of the letters, perhaps they have reached N. Haven by this time. Give my love to all remember me very affectionately to Mrs. Appthorp and her daughters, I shall try and write to Mrs. Stith this mail.

With much love

Your sister

Charlotte C. Van Cleve

My dear Sister,

I have resigned my Commission in the Army, and expect to leave this place in September, first for Dayton and then for Missouri. You have seen St. Davids and he must have given you a detailed account of my correspondence with him respecting my plans. We hope that he and Louisa will join us in Missouri. I am dissatisfied with the Army on several accounts. One is that I have not sufficient employment to engage my time. I may not do as well out of the Army as in it, but I wish to try the experiment. You may ask, why not come to the East? I answer, give me a fortune and I will, I can live or make a living in the West if he has nothing, but this is not the case in the East. If I am West of the Mountains I might as well be in Missouri as in Ohio, so far as distance from you is concerned; for the Steam boats on the Western waters have shortened the distance from Philadelphia ^{from Philadelphia} so much that one can now go to Missouri, as much

less time than it formerly took Uncle Phillips to
go to Lexington. Perhaps when we get there from Lan-
tunette will move west. It will be much better
for John. I do not think he has a pleasant prospect
before him in New York. - You will be very
sorry to part with L. but you must not expect
him to live a life of single blessedness always.

J

COV



(Horn)

Mrs. Margaret, of Van Clue
Care of Prof. J. W. Gibbs
New Haven
Conn

L. writes that Sister Mary Ann's health is not good.
I am very sorry to hear this. She appears to have
suffered much from ill health. Farewell
God bless you all
Your Father Horatio

Fort Winnebago Apr. 3^d 1836

My dear Sister

I heard my wife say this morning that she intended to write to you to day, and as I wished to send a word to my sisters, we agreed to join stocks. It was my intention to have written by the last mail to let you know that I was married on the 22^d ult. but I was so much occupied that I w^d not have been able to write more than three lines. I trust to your forgiving disposition. You are dear good sisters and never have for any thing but love for your most devoted brother Rosh. — When you last wrote to me you said my little ones had been unwell, but in your letter to Charlotte, rec^d on your birth day, you said nothing about their health, we trust therefore that they have recovered. May the next letter tell us that you have been restored to perfect health. — What progress do you make in Music? I sincerely hope you continue to be pleased with it, and that Mrs Stitt finds you still an apt scholar. Give my very best respects to Mrs Stitt and tell her I won the cotton batting till my health was restored, and keep a supply on hand. — John writes that he expects to leave N. Y. this Spring. Hous says he expects to bid farewell to N. O. soon. My wife some-

things advises me to leave the Army. We will think about it. - Love to all. Kiss the darlings.

With much love your brother
A. Watts.

My very dear Sisters

Long have I looked forward to the time when I should be able to call you by that endearing title and now God has given me that happiness, but alas! although I am blessed with every happiness a mortal ought to expect still I feel that there is a dreadful blank in our once peaceful and delightful family circle. When I first consented to become what I now am the wife of your darling brother I looked forward to the time when he would again have a father and mother who would in some degree compensate for the loss he had sustained. Many bright pictures have I drawn in all of which my Father held a conspicuous place. But all my pictures proved false and I am now fatherless. I see around me daily my bereaved mother and sisters, and I think of my brother far from those to whom he might now prove so great a comfort. The aspect of things is changed, but by the blessing of God I have been enabled to see in it the hand of a kind and wise Parent who would not willingly afflict one of his children. Nothing but an entire faith in the wisdom and

goodness of God could console us under this our irreparable loss and may he in all things teach us to say "thy will O God be done"

Our wedding was of course very private, I should have been much pleased to have had you all present but that of course was impossible. There never was a happier bride in the round world than I am and what renders my happiness much greater is the entire satisfaction with which my beloved Father viewed my approaching marriage. My parents have always been much attached to your brother and now my mother's greatest satisfaction is that he is near to take this place for a time at least of her own son. We all live together and are very happy except when rebellious thoughts which it is sometimes hard to control arise in our bosoms.

I should have written long ago to all my dear Haven friends had I not been prevented by a severe inflammation in my eyes (a disease which has for some months been very prevalent in this country) ever since my attendance at my Father's sick bed was no longer necessary. So dear Chaggy offer my apology to all my school friends some of whom must think very hard of me. Tell them that not one of them is forgotten and that Charlotte Van Cleave is as much attached to them as was their old school-fellow Charlotte Clark.

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Postville bag - March 1836.

My dear Sister

Yours of Jan^y 18th arrived on the 18th Feb. I hope, my dear Sister, you think Charlotte has neglected you I hope you will try to forgive her. If she wrote to Miss Hooker on the way here, I wrote to you and she does not think it necessary that both she & I write at the same time. It is not very probable that you rec^d just a letter in the mail for me at the same time with Sister Mary Anna. - Since Charlotte's return home, she has been called upon to watch by the sick bed of two sisters and a parent. The life of one of the sisters was for some ^{time} almost despaired of. After her recovery, her father was taken ill, and after suffering many weeks he breathed his last about four hours before the arrival of your letter. His loss is deeply felt by us all. God grant that the afflictions with which he has visited us, may prove blessings to our immortal souls.

As Charlotte and I had been long engaged, Major Clark was making arrangements for our marriage and in accordance with his last wishes respecting it, we expect soon to be married; but of course privately & without parade. - I hope Mrs Clark will consent to spend some time with her daughter. It is probable that I will be much from home during

the summer, and if Mrs Black goes to the East, Charlotte will be entirely alone.

I am sorry to hear of the sickness of my little ones, but trust that the next letter will bring news of their recovery. - My health has been quite good this winter, excepting now and then a bad cold. Charlotte is suffering from an inflammation in one of her eyes. Mrs Black is well; Mary getting better.

I had a letter from Antoinette, by the last mail, and one from Mr Voorhes. Was delighted to hear from both. The next time I hear from John, I hope to learn that he has made arrangements to go to Ohio. I know it will be much to his advantage. Antoinette is an excellent woman. She appears perfectly willing to go whenever it may seem best to John. Still it must be very painful for her to think of leaving New York and breaking up the family arrangements there.

I sometimes think of leaving the Army and settling in the West, but I must wait till the war is over.

Direct your letters simply to "Fort Winnebago, Mich. Terr." The via's are unnecessary, since people have found out that there is such a place as Fort Winnebago.

If I were to do my duty, I would be making out accounts of clothing that I have been issuing to the soldiers to day, and arranging company papers, instead of writing letters, but one cannot confine himself to duty all the time; he must steal a little recreation, or he will render himself a mere machine. - You speak of Louisa's not fulfilling her promise to me, as if you thought I might have blamed her and thought her unkind. It was not so my dear sister. I knew Louisa must have the best of reasons for changing her mind, and never urged her to accompany us. She knew that her brothers and sisters, all, opposed it, and it was natural that they should. Still she would have returned with me had she not thought it her duty to remain where she was. A thousand times have I regretted, having ever thought of her paying me a visit, it has caused me many painful moments (how). You eastern people who never take sight of your Church steeple, think it a terrible thing to go so far from home as this, but we look upon a journey of a few thousand miles as a matter of trifling importance.

I am glad to find you derive pleasure from your music, and that you do not regret having commenced it.

Give much love to all from me & from Charlotte & her mother. Farewell sister dear. May God bless & prosper you
Hortie.

Fort Winnebago May 26th 1835

My very dear sister

I have been waiting long and anxiously for a letter from you but in vain; I think I must attribute it to the irregularity of the mails which are frequently detained at this season of the year. But sisters at least should not stand on ceremony and I will not wait any longer for you.

Ever this reaches you, you will have seen dear Louisa. You must be very happy to meet her after so long a separation; how I long to see all my dear sisters!

Has Mrs Gibbs enjoyed good health this winter? How are the dear children and Mr Gibbs?

Ma has resolved to go to N. Haven in the course of the summer for the benefit of Mary's health. Martha also will go with her and she can then reap the benefit of some of the best schools for I think in this our particular and indeed I may say in every thing, New Haven exceeds every other place.

The children of course are delighted; Ellen will stay with me in all probability. I shall feel the loss of my darling mother and sisters much, but I feel that it is best they should go and I will not distress them with useless repinings.

I rec'd a letter from dear Kate Hooker and also one from Betty in which Maria added a line or two, all of these, together with one from Octavia I must try and answer this mail or the next. All were well and wrote in high spirits.

I have little time left me to answer all these besides writing a post-script to Louisa, my husband (Oh how proud I feel of him) will finish the sheet.

Answer this soon dearest Maggie and remember me to all, with much love your sister
Charlotte A. Van Cleave.

My dear Sister

But time to say three

words. — All well, haven't heard from you lately. — Letter from Louisa today informs me that she must be in Ark about this time. I'd like to be there with my wife. Expect to leave my wife soon, and go with the troops to work on the Military road to Fort Howard, to be doomed by the mosquitoes in the meanwhile. Lay ear this you must have heard that I think seriously of leaving the Army and going to

Missouri to live. I am tired of a military life. How w'd you like to spend a year with us? — Dr. Davis has a leave of absence for two months and intends to visit St. Louis. I sincerely hope he will take Louisa away with him. Have you a good beam? How does music prosper? I want to hear you much. Perhaps I may see you of these days. I will be very much disappointed if you do not play very well. I have lately been so much occupied of late that she has seldom had time to open her piano.

(Much love to all.

Kiss the little darlings.

Auntie.



H PV

J B

Miss Margaret A. Van Cleve
Care of Prof. J. W. Gibbs
New Haven
(Conn.)

Monroe Michigan Feb. 8th 1836.

Dear Maggy.

I believe you owe me at least one letter, but I am of a very forgiving disposition and will not scold you for your apparent negligence for I know that young people like you have so much to occupy your minds that your time is fully occupied with other things than writing letters to your old friends and new relations.

But indeed I should like much to receive a letter from you and partly on that account I have written this in order that you may know when to direct your letters. I think it highly probable that we shall make this our abode for at least a year and perhaps longer. Horatio is at present absent endeavouring to find some employment which shall be most profitable to him although at present a young man with any degree of enterprise will succeed in almost any thing he undertakes. If John and his family come out here in the Spring there will be quite a settlement of Van-Clues and I am much in hopes that Long can persuade her husband to settle here also. If we are all to be

somewhere in the west we might surely as well be in the same place.

Houston has just been to see me, he is much pleased with this place and is quite anxious that we should all settle here, we are also much pleased with it, the society is very good and we have many privileges here which are not to be obtained in many of the western villages.

At present we are boarding, but in the course of two months we are to go to house keeping, a wealthy gentleman in this place is building four cottages which are to be exactly alike and well I have no doubt be very comfortable and pleasant. They are all engaged, we have taken one and shall probably go into it sometime in April or May. John wrote us that sister had another daughter how are they all? I am in hopes that Mary Ann's health is some what better, what does she call the dear little one? Kiss all the dear little children for their Aunt Charlotte.

Houston wished to be remembered to you all especially the little niece whom he has not seen. Give my love to all my friends, Mrs. Apthorp and daughters, Mr. Hitt and Florence and all the

girls. Tell the girls that I am anxious to write to them all but my family cares are so numerous that it is almost impossible for me to steal time to write.

When I first went home more than a year ago I wrote to Mrs Apthorp, she had never answered it, and I must say I feel a little hurt about it; how are they all?

Mother and all the children except Mary (who is with me) will go to Cincinnati in the Spring, and remain there until we get permanently settled when I hope to have them with us.

Do excuse this writing for indeed my pen is very poor, and Horatio did not leave me any knife so I cannot remedy it. Kiss all the children for me remember me to Mr Gibbs, tell sister that I shall try and write to her in a day or two.

Good Bye dearest Meggy that God may protect and bless you is the prayer of your ever affectionate sister Charlotte C. Van Buren.



QJ

Feb. 8/36

Char. VC.

*Miss Margaret F. Van Cleave
Prof. J. W. Gibbs
New Haven
Conn.*

Fort Winnebago Jan 21st 1838

Dear Margaret

Your letter has been for some time on hand, and has risen to upbraid me every week, but all to no purpose, I have never yet attended to its monitions, and although want of time could be with much reason pleaded as an excuse, I will make no apology, but leave it to your generosity, to forgive my negligence. You say your time is much occupied with your studies, do you find ~~Mr~~ St John more strict than this honoured predecessor? Surely not. I often look in upon you sitting in the old dining-room writing your lessons like good children. Mrs. Apthorp sits in the same corner. I'll venture to say, and sews with as much zeal as ever. Then in the school-room I see you in some of my flights, sitting in just about the same places and studying away as if your lives depended on it. Poor Miss Elizabeth is as patient as ever and I am afraid in no better health than she was last summer. I am very anxious to hear if her parent last fall was of any benefit to her. Do not fail to remember me with much love to all the family.

I did not know how much attached to them I was, until I left N. Haven.

I am rejoiced to find that your music is becoming so great a source of amusement to you. I feel confident you will succeed having so good a taste for it and being blessed with so good a teacher as dear Mrs. Smith.

How is she? Has she given up the idea of going to the South? How are Florence and Fie-torine? You must tell me every thing about every body when you write.

I was much gratified that so many of the girls remembered me assure all of them that all their love is re-sociated. I intend as soon as possible to write

to them, but what are they about all this time? With the exception of you and Kate Hooker none have written to me. Do beg of them to write to me and tell me every thing.

I am anxious to know if Kate has recovered so far as to be able to return to school, what girls occupy the "middle room" now? Tell Kate via that I shall write to her next and remember me to Cornelia. Planted. Give much love to Joanna, and Maria and Betty, tell the little girls that I often think of them and should be much delighted to hear from them. Caroline I suppose is in N. York, please send me her direction. Remember me also with

much affection to Mr and Mrs Gibbs and kiss the dear children for me.

Your brother's health appears to be very good he desires much love to you all.

Pa and Ma send their respects to all your sister, Mr Gibbs and yourself.

Remember me kindly to all my acquaintances and believe me your attached friend
Charlotte C. Clark

Miss M. F. Vandeleur

Horatio to his sisters sends greeting. A short time since I wrote to Sister M. A. I intend to write to you soon. My health seems to be very good at present. And I spend my time as pleasantly as a bachelor could expect. But I hope not to remain a single man all my life. Major Clarke's family are getting better (that is, the sick). The Major himself is sick and I fear will be obliged to go on a journey next spring for his health. Your friend Mr Leavitt is at Green Bay & in good health. He wishes to be remembered respectfully to my brothers & sisters.

Poor little Mary Clark is going about on crutches. I fear she is to be an invalid for many months. — I take extraordinary care of myself, go out but little & keep warmly clad. — Love to all.

locate

to

25

Charlotte O. Clark

Miss M. J. Van Buren

Care of Prof. J. W. Wells

New Haven

Conn.



Let me know when you hear from
Hans & John. — Farewell. God bless
you.

A. P. Van Buren

Fort Winnebago March 12. 1836

My dear sister

Charlotte rec^d your letter by the last mail, but on account of an inflammation in her eyes, she is unable to answer it at present. I think I mentioned in my last, that Mrs Clark, to fulfil her husband's last wishes respecting Charlotte and myself, intended to make immediately arrangements for our marriage. In consequence of this it is probable that we will be married in the course of this month, or as soon as a gentleman painter can come from Green Bay.

I have now something to say to you, on which I wish you to meditate seriously, and give me an answer as soon as possible.

Yesterday I rec^d a letter from a gentleman at Green Bay (Fort Howard), with whom you have a slight acquaintance, in which much was said about you. He said that he had applied for a furlough to go to Dayton but that there was no prospect of his getting it. So he wished to write, but as you rather declined giving him that permission he could not do it. He en-

truly has proved the strength of his attachment
by preserving it so long, while removed from you,
with no encouragement from you, and surrounded
by the gay and fascinating society of Nashville & other
places. — But Sister dear I must leave this to
yourself. I do not urge you to marry any one, for
it might some day prove a source of sorrow to
me. I am sincerely attached to Mr D and
love him as a brother. This is a very delicate sub-
ject my dear sister, and one that would rather you have
settled between yourselves without my intervention; for
if it sh^d ever prove a source of unhappiness to either
of you I ^{do} ~~can~~ never forgive myself. But situated as
you are with respect to each other I feel it my
duty to meddle a little. I know Mr D well and
and perfectly assured you & I never find a more de-
voted husband. He often thinks of resigning & if you
did not like the Army you could easily prevail upon
him to leave it. — Shall I tell him, he may
write to you? Sister dear I think you will love him
and I think too you will see him before next fall
for he will try hard to visit Dayton. Still he may
not succeed. He paid me a visit a short time since
and said a great deal about you you are the only one

I wish, my dear, that you c^d be present at my
wedding, and that you could spend the summer
with me. If you get on a steamboat and come
up to Galena or go to Cleveland and from there
to Green Bay, I will meet you (God willing) and
bring you to my home.

I have heard from Aunt but once since he
has been in N. Y. I do not know when John is.

Having business on hand I must bid you
farewell for the present. Much love to all.

Your own dear Brother Horatio.

Mrs C. Charlotte send much love

St. Winnetago { H9V
ma 13m.2

23

Miss Louisa E. Van Cleve
Care of A. G. Phillips Esq.
Dayton
Ohio

Fort Winnebago Jan. 26th 1856

My dear Louisa's letter arrived last evening.
and to prove my readiness to accede to your pro-
position I am preparing an answer to send by
the first mail. The cards you sent arrived safe-
ly and you may rest assured I will not neglect
to give one to Charlotte, with much love from you.
Major C's family are all getting better. Mary
recovers but slowly, and the Major's health
is very delicate. I fear he will be obliged to
leave us next summer for some months on
account of his health. Charlotte is very well
and her mother's health is pretty good. They send
much love to you. I am very well. So much
for the health of my friends I will now for mat-
ters and things in general. — You ask about
my marriage. Owing to the sickness in Major
C's family, I have said nothing to him on
the subject. It is probable that I will be
married next spring; that is I hope so. I intend
soon to speak to the Major on the subject.
If he goes on "leave of absence," I shall like all to
be settled beforehand. But I shall not be impatient
for his house is a home to me, and I have every
reason to be contented. Thakby.

27. to Charlotte and I were together to day. I weigh 10 1/2 lbs, & I weigh almost 10 lbs more than I did last summer.

You speak of your reasons for changing your mind about accompanying us home. I can expect better. Although my heart had for a long time been set on having you with us, yet I could not complain, for it was a long step for you to take, and one that should be taken without much reflection. I should have dearly to have you with us next summer, but as there will be many difficulties in the way of your getting there, I do not dare suffer myself to think of it. Disappointments always weigh heavily upon me. — You speak Sister dear of directing your next letter to Charlotte. It gave me much happiness to hear you say so. I hope not many weeks will pass before the little messenger will be on its way. You have always spoken of Charlotte with affection, and manifested a sincere attachment to her. May you ever think of her as a dear Sister. To know that she is loved by my Sister, has been a source of much happiness to me. — I must be careful not to fill my letter with "Charlotte," and "I." let us therefore change the subject; — not to "Matters and Things in general," for that was the last change. — but to some few things in particular. The account of the fire in N. York & of the death of Dr. Howell was brought here by the paper. The Doctors family have been severely afflicted. His health was very delicate when I was in Princeton. William was in good health. — I find that C. A. Hal-

stead (the Merchant with whom Cousin Dick deals in N. Y.) was one of the sufferers by the fire. We all thank God that our dear Sam escaped. I wish he would write soon & let me know his plans. He is not a very good correspondent. Our friend Mr. Davis is at the Bay, and is well. I hear from him occasionally. It is not very probable that I will go to the Bay (Green Bay) next summer. There are some fears that my Company will be obliged to work on the road between this Port and Green Bay. I have just been conversing with one of my Brother Officers who has a brother and many friends in Texas. He thinks seriously of joining them. It is Mr. Collinsworth of whom you have heard. Give much love to all. Kiss the little ones. My respects to Mr. Van Cleave, Mr. & Mrs. Cooper. — Charlotte wishes to add a postscript; so fare well my dear Sister, May God bless you; is Maria's prayer. I almost forgot to mention that I rec'd a letter from you three or four weeks since.

January 7th 1835
I write only a line or two my dear Sister to let you know that I bear no malice in my heart. That is to say that I am not vexed at your not writing to me. I still live in hope and will not for a moment rather than harbour for one moment the thought that your silence arose from wilful negligence. My feelings when I think of our dispo-

Fort Winnebago Feb. 20. 1856

My dear Sister

This brings you the melancholy tidings of the death of Charlotte's father. He breathed his last on the 19th and yesterday we committed his remains to the tomb. Major Clark was in very good health last summer, but ever since our return there has been much sickness in his family which gave him great anxiety and I think was the means of hastening his death. He began to complain early in December and for the last two or three weeks of his life was confined to his bed.

I wd be glad Louise knew of you

we write to Charlotte immediately
on the receipt of this. It wd be very
gratifying to her. God grant that this
severe affliction may prove a bless-
ing to them all, to us all.

Mary is still lame, the rest of the
family are pretty well.

Our friend Mr Dancress arrived here
last evening, and is now with me.
I am really very much attached to
him, and look upon him as one of
my best friends. From some remarks
he made I am led to believe that
he has not forgotten you. Ever tenderly
ours? I mean to say that he thinks
rather more of Louisa than of any
other of your sex. — He will re-
turn to Fort Howard in a few
days.

My health is very good. Curious that
it sh^d be better than it was last
winter.

Charlotte sends much love. Kiss
Cousin Marianne & the little ones
for me and present my very best
respects to her husband. I became
much attached to Mr Thurston &
regretted that I could see more of
him. Much love to Uncle & Lick.
They are very dear to me. —
It is long since I have heard from
John. What has become of him.

I am well. God bless & preserve
my dear sister.
S. oratio.

H Wimbury MS.
Feb 20

28

H PV

Miss Louisa A Van Cleve
Care of H. G. Phillips
Dayton
Ohio



March 20, 1836

Fort Winnebago March 20th 1836.

Dear Sister Louy

Your sweet letter has remained unanswered for some time, but I will not apologize, your dear brother has informed you of the deep affliction, into which we have all been thrown, by a dispensation of our Almighty Father, and you no longer blame me for my apparent negligence. Yet my darling sister, deep indeed has been our loss, and did we not see in it the hand of God, we should be indeed wretched; but praised be his holy name, he is able to pour balm into the hearts of the afflicted, and he has also declared himself to be the Orphan's Father, and the Widow's God. How children could boast of such a parent as I have lost, and proud indeed do I feel, to witness the testimonials of respect, which have been paid to his memory. I regret very much that you did not see him; I know you would have been pleased with him, and in the last conversation of any length which I held with him, you were held up to me, as a perfect model. It was then that he advised me how to act, when I should be called upon, to fill the important station of a wife. He asked me if your family

seemed pleased with me, as their intended sister, I ventured to say: "I thought you well." This pleased him much and did also the thought that I was not fickle or changeable in my feelings. "My dear Charlotte" said he "a young married woman should be a perfect doe, perfectly amiable, and refrain from speaking ill of any one." Thus dear sis, did he counsel me, as long as he was able, and always seemed pleased, that God had provided for one of his children, a protector. It was his wish that we should soon be settled, and we were therefore married, last Tuesday evening. Dearest Louy, you can form no idea of the extent of our happiness. I am sure I have one of the best of husbands, and God grant he may never have cause to repent his choice of a wife. He is at present in better health than I have ever known him, and he looks so happy and contented, that it seems sometimes as if my full heart, would burst with happiness and gratitude to the Giver of all good. Louy was wrong in telling my dear Father, that you loved me? Won't you write soon to your new sister, and tell her if she has your love? I must write several other letters this morning, and must also leave the rest of this sheet for my dear darling husband, (is it not strange?) Good - Bye dear sis. Give my love to all my new relations, and any friends who may inquire after me, May God protect and bless you, is the prayer of your much attached sister, Charlotte C. Van Cleave

My dear Sister.

My wife has left room for me to say a few words, to my dear Louisa. You will congratulate me on my happiness. God has given me the best of wives and I consider myself the happiest of mortals. When you come to see us, you will find my wife is the same Charlotte that you knew in New Haven, but if possible more lovely than ever. She appears to be very happy.

Now to a subject that concerns you more closely. I rec^d a letter this morning from my Fort Howard correspondent. His whole soul appears to be wrapt up in my sister L. notwithstanding his long absence and the repulse she met with in 1855. I think it highly probable that you will see him before many months. He has applied for a leave of absence, whether he will obtain it or not is uncertain. Whatever may be your feelings towards him, I hope you will not yet married till you see him again.

I had a letter from Houston a short time since. He expects to be in Lexington this spring.

Give much love to him and to all. I am
well. Sister dear. I have several letters to write
this afternoon, and cannot say more at present.

Very affectionately your brother Aratus.

Antoinette
Meyers M.D.

For

Miss Louisa E. Van Cleve
Care of O. F. E. Phillips
Dayton
Ohio

H P V

I was married by the Rev. H. Gregory an Episcopal
Clergyman.

Boston, March 2nd 1836

My friend Charlotte

Through a letter which I received from our dear Katie a day or two since, I learned with the deepest sorrow that God had laid his afflicting hand heavily upon you. I was totally unprepared for such sorrowful intelligence. I knew that the health of your dear father had been delicate, during the winter, but I hoped the returning spring would restore him again to health; but it had been ordered otherwise, he has been called away from earth, and you are left bereaved and desolate. In this hour of deep distress, mine is brimming with sympathy, but yet I would offer you at least sympathy and counsel with you, a sister's tears. We have rejoiced together in happier days, and now in the hour of affliction, we will weep together over him whose loss is irreparable. And our dear Charlotte, is not the cold and heartless daughter of the world, but it is from a heart that has deeply drunk of Sorrow's cup, and which has not only felt how great a father's loss, but has also wept over the grave of a departed mother. It is a bitter affliction, indeed, to be left thus all alone, but oh! how should we be an orphan, to have both parents snatched away, and to be cast in the very morning of life upon the world's wide ocean, with no

one to you, your thoughts are fixed deep. God grant that you may
never know such sorrow as this. The loss of a fond & devoted father
such a grief, and such a sad & distressing one, is in itself an afflic-
tion, and indeed for human nature to bear, and it requires a help that
cannot give to bear such a wound, to alleviate such a grief. In this
dark hour then; let us look beyond this vale of tears, let us bring our loved
side hearts to Him who "bath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows," let us
tell him all our anguish, for earth hath no sorrow that Heaven cannot
heal. It is our only refuge, my dear dear sister, let us then flee to
him, let us that, which he alone can give; it is our
privilege to do so, for he hath promised us the consolation of
his grace. His word is full of promises, and I could fill my sheet with
it could not fail to make you realize that the comforts of God are
then given for ever, but I will leave this to you, and while you search
his word may the blessing of his spirit attend you, and apply those
blessed promises to your wounded heart. But then you sometimes
feel, as though you did not wish to be comforted, as though you would
rather indulge your grief, and brood over your sorrows; but this is not
right my dear Charlotte, God has doubtless intended this severe chasten-
ment for some wise end, and it is our duty to bow in humble submis-
sion, for the Lord giveth, and the Lord hath taken away; and the language
of our hearts should be "He is his holy name." I know how true
this is, human nature will rebel, when Heaven strikes our comforts

we cannot say "it is will," when you take these thoughts from off
but we should strive to do so, for affliction come not from the ground
but directly from God, and he will reveal to us, why he thus severely
trials with us. But in this bereavement there is one more deeply
afflicted than my Charlotte; heavy as is the stroke upon you, your
precious mother feels it more deeply; you have lost a father, she a
husband, you the guardian of her youth, she the companion of her
life; my heart bleeds for her, and my daily prayer shall be that
God would visit her in her affliction, with the rich consolations of
your presence. I never knew this dear parent, when you were but a
young girl, you loved and revered him, from all that which he did, and
was worthy; and I look forward with delight to the day when you
shall have the pleasure of being acquainted with, and with your
dear mother. But that hope is destroyed, yet come to think of
the mother who once deplored his loss. How does your mother bear her
affliction dear Charlotte? She will find, and you dear sister will
find, in my brother a faithful friend; I bless God that he is with
you, I know that he will be a son to her, and more than a brother
to you. He loves you all with deep devotion, and will anxiously seek
to promote the happiness of those whom he left under his care. Precious
brother may God bless and preserve him. Remember me with warm
affection to your mother, and keep all the children for you, truly
sympathizing in your sorrows.

I have just received your letter & am glad to hear as you are feeling better. I have been
 this afternoon to see Mr. [unclear] to see what he has to say about the [unclear]. I wrote to [unclear]
 week since, not knowing of the delicate state of our father's health, and it is probably
 dear to him, in the midst of his afflictions. I regret exceedingly, the [unclear] [unclear]
 doubtless a poor comfort to him in his [unclear]. But she will forgive me. I think
 I wrote also to you last week. I hope [unclear] have received my letter. This

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 doubtless a poor comfort to him in his [unclear]. But she will forgive me. I think
 I wrote also to you last week. I hope [unclear] have received my letter. This

I cannot express the grief I felt, on receiving the painful tidings of your commu-
 nicated dear brother. What a loss to you & dear to your experience, so as, God comfort
 them, and bless them. Affection to their souls. This dear family are [unclear]
 your change, and you will be the one to be everything to them. May God preserve your
 health, and make you a blessing to them all. I am glad that Mr. [unclear] has
 been to see you. Why do I feel so gratified to hear from him, after all that has passed
 since I have [unclear] him for three years? I am sure I do not know