



Horatio P. Van Cleve and
family papers.

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New Haven November 20, 1846.

My dear brother

I have just finished writing to dear afflicted Hester. I regret that I cannot lay aside my pen without addressing a few lines to you - Antoinette wrote me very fully on the subject of our sister's death - But you may imagine my surprise and sorrow, when I tell you I had not heard of her illness before. Antoinette says she has been in a critical state of health since the spring - that her complaint was dropsy - and that she was attended by a homoeopathic physician - Are you satisfied with the practice of the homoeopaths? It seems to me I never could commit my self or any dear friend to the care of any but a regularly bred physician - Did you know that Mergers's dear baby that died was attended by a homoeopathist? - True the best physicians cannot save whom one is appointed to die - but are we not bound always to hope that life may be preserved - and prolonged, unless there is positive certainty that there is no ground whatever for hope. I do not thus give my opinion to lead you to approach those who have employed homoeopathists - but (they no doubt acted from the dictates of their best judgment at the time, and that is what we all must do, and then leave the event with God) - but I do earnestly hope that my brothers will not esteem it their duty to commit their beloved families to the care of these men.

Uncle Houston I have thought well of their position in some
manner - but I do not think he would have trusted his family
or himself, neither hands except in special cases and even
then he would have been assured that the man in employment
was a man of sound judgment and thoroughly acquainted with
the subjects in theory and in practice - I think I might have
been led in a case of doubt to trust a child
to a man whom I well thoroughly approved - but I should not
be at all willing to trust my self in regard of the abilities of
such a physician - You will think me desirous to dwell on this
long on this point - but should what I have said be the means
of leading you to consider before you employ these men (if you
have any bias that way) I shall be willing to bear the epithet of
being a dull and tedious writer.

I hear frequently of you and your dear Charlotte through
Margaret, who I believe often exchanges letters with you - It is pleas-
ant to hear of you at all which I fear I should not do but for her
- I do not say this reproachfully - I know dear brother Sam is
miserable correspondent - and I think I cannot help it - It
is many years since I last wrote you - or since I distinctly recollect
writing - I believe the last must have been that which I wrote
in answer to one I received from you on the subject of
your dear baby's death - It was some time since that I received
I think you called her Charlotte Seymour, and that she was
the first little child that your dear father took from
your fold, and gathered to his own bosom - I have sometimes
found your name recurrent that letter as I have not had one
from you since - but had I done as I should have done and
as I have often longed to do I should have written you and

Charlotte again and again - but writing is always a tedious busi-
ness for me - and it is seldom indeed that I have a leisure
hour or a very few minutes of an hour - I have servants, but not
servants, it is not my servants, want so much looking after that
had I strength and time from any other duties, I should do a
large part of the work myself - As I am writing, for many years I have
given it up almost entirely - sometimes not making a call for six
real months together - Of late I have not been quite so much confined
at home by care of my children or by feeble health - for my health
is much better and my youngest child is now quite out of the
"cove" as mothers often express it - I have a little more prospect of
- shall I say leisure - but no I shall not have leisure in the
life other than will be sent me - and I will not com-
plain - God is indeed merciful to me - shall I say more
that I cannot have leisure - What has he not done
for me? My husband and my children are opened to me -
my necessary wants all supplied - yes and many of

how many other mercies added - Surely I should sing with the sons
of Psalmist of Israel "Bless the Lord O my soul, and all that is within
me bless his holy name" How often would I forget his benefit - and
thought it hard to be so much confined at home when I have dear
my friends around my young freedom and society - Many He for-
give my ingratitude and make me ever satisfied with his
dealing, toward me and mine. How short is life! How little does matter
whether we are allowed to employ our time in that way which we
think agreeable, or whether we are obliged to obey ourselves, and
labour for the good of those around us - How very soon shall we be far
from toil and care in the region of death! But it is of infinite
importance that we have been cheerful in the performance of duty

Cincinnati Apr. 5th 1844

Dear Sister

I believe that notwithstanding I should
be considered general for our family and that the letters are still
unanswered I will make another effort to make so good a job as
keeping up our sisterly relations. Belle was to have written her answer
in reply to your last, but she is not very well and has deferred me
to write on her part of all she has. I say that you wish about the
piano, shall be attended to of the friends herself also she will take
it herself, and at all events will do something about it before she
comes up this summer. How much do you expect it to bring now? It has
been kept in tune, and is I believe worth as much as any instrument
of its age. I shall I believe direct this letter to Speculator, for it is probable
you will be there, if not John will forward it to you if you have known
you must be in a great hurry giving yourselves up your new place,
we are all so glad you are going there, it will be so much more
pleasant, indeed. I do not know what is to prevent your being very
happy this summer dear sister, except you work yourself to
death in that delightful occupation of instructing a youth.
Do not now I beg of you take more on yourself than you can
do for the cause I live ~~more~~ more, I think that we did not
come into this world for show, but as free to enjoy all we can. O

be as happy as we can. Your letter speaks of our little
Anna as if her health was not good, but I am sure her con-
-stitution is good, and it is probably only the depressing influence
of her little baby's loss, which makes her droop. I am sure she
will be as rosy as a little milkmaid by the time she has
nursed a little with her cousins. Belle is crazy to see her.
How is Malcolm? Does he still remember his Aunt Mary and
Aunt Jim? Tell him we often talk & think about him, and always
consider him as almost a man - and a great comfort to his
mother, how are his nose, ears, toes and all his ailments?
We received last week a letter from Aunt Susan in which
she gives us the intelligence of Grandmother's death. She died
in the insane asylum, Aunt Marianne was with her it was
the last Sunday. She does not recover her senses, does not know
Aunt Marianne, but seems very calm and happy. Poor old lady
she now I hope rests in peace. From Cousin Daniel Seymour's
and Aunt Susan's account, it seems the Woodbridges have behaved
very badly in appropriating all of Grandmother's income to themselves.
I believe it was accumulated and become something consider-
-able now, and Aunt Marianne claims it all as a gift from
Grandmother, but of course that is nothing, as Grandmother has not been
sane for many years, Mother says for not our share she does
not care, but Aunt Susan needs it more than any of us -
she writes in low spirits, her husband's health is bad and
she has lost one of her daughters, Helen. I believe you have
seen them though I have not. Mr. Lincoln is now in
New Orleans on business, but as soon as he returns she will

ask him about his business, and if he thinks it worth while
he will bring suit against her. Woodbridge, Daniel Seymour,
when he was here in the fall, told us that their conduct had
been quite shameful with regard to Grandmother. It is to
be hoped though that it was not quite so bad as he thought it
to be. Can any ~~one~~ ^{body} be more wretchedly than a crazy old lady
perfectly helpless and dependent and badly treated by her own
daughters. May God forgive them if they have so behaved, but
surely they can never forgive themselves. Mrs. dear Mother's health
is only tolerably good, she is incapable to take care but since her
spleen has set in she is much better, she is so good a church-
-woman as ever, and has to day in particular, been quite eloquent
in speaking of various abuses and neglect of forms, which she has
now cried into the Church. Belle has left school with flying colors
she received a diploma, and many compliments from her instructors.
She is a dear lovely girl and quite changed from our little Cry-
baby crying as we used to call her, she is just now very busy helping
us to make ready for winter. Cousin of her world, and she thinks
I believe of nothing but flannel and waisters for knitting socks. Ellen
is very well and growing very tall she had last week an attack
of "cold stomach" but recovered on the same day without any serious
injury to her constitution. Our house is quite full. Mrs. Caldwell
and family Mrs. Lacy with daughter are coming to board with us for
a week or two, while he is on duty somewhere in the state.
She does not seem to me much changed from my remembrance.

of her, but she says she has a great deal - I have as much as
my letter but I have not been able to make my inquiries after
my Ark friends - If you are still here remember me affectionately
to Mary, Hoy and Susan - Mary and all of them - Mrs. Worthington -

Mr. & Mrs. J. P. Parker -
I have been in
your letter - Give my love to the Mrs. Parker's when
you see them - I have not much affection
Mrs. J. Parker

PAID



Mr. J. P. Parker
Care of Mrs. John W. Parker
Wichita

on me the other day and enquired about all of you very affectionately
she wishes me to ask if it is probable Louise will be with you
this summer? - Mr. Perkins sends his kindest remembrances to all
of you he is just as good and just as dirty as ever - he has left
the charge of the Unitarian church - he is going to spend the
summer at the coast if ever there was a saint it is Mr. Perkins &
I suppose he never forgets himself always and to think of nothing but

Cincinnati, July 31st 49

Dear Charlotte

I recd Mr. Bancroft's letter by John and invited him to stay with us, but they declined, and only dined once with us, and spent part of an afternoon on Thursday. With leave I believe this afternoon, Belle was not well enough to draw their attention, as her child is not yet three weeks old, but Mary went about with Antoinette; they have received much attention for the short stay they make have been going all the time to one place or another. I have just recd a letter from Malcolm, he will not be down as he had written he this year but if nothing happens he will be here about this ^{time} year so that if you can come and spend the summer, we shall all be more ^{times} together. Except Ellen, and Malcolm must go and be here should you be prevented from coming we shall visit you at Ypsilanti as Mr. Bancroft will spend several days in Dayton after leaving this, you will receive a letter from Mr. Lincoln and Mary containing many things he wishes to express; I am very sorry to have them go without my sending any thing to you and the children, but indeed I have not the means at present; Mr. Mallen has gone to New York, and I am about closing my business, and do not know until all is settled if I shall have any thing - hope you have recd the Plans safely, shall if in my power send you something yet this fall all well & Mary will

write tomorrow. Better in a few days if you were here
I should have a great deal to tell you. Makeham is
now doing very well, and if he continues in the Indian country
cannot feel in a few years to be rich and there is little
doubt that he will remain; he mentions Mr. Brinsford and
yourself particularly in his letters - is now at a new station
called Ft. Colby - my love to Mr. Brinsford and the children
Capt. Culbertson is a bad butcher - must stop my letter
without saying more of your friends are about leaving
Good bye and may Heaven bless you

Your affect. Mother
C. A. Clarke

Winnamatt Oct. 6. 1846

Dear Charlotte

I send inclosed a certificate of deposits of the Trust Company for Fifty Dollars subject to the order of O. P. Van Buren. If this is a bank in Wiscasset they will get him the money for it. If not it can be got in Detroit. Mr. Van Buren will have to endorse it, as they will tell him.

It was made out by mistake at the Bank subject to the order of O. P. Van Buren - but the O was changed to an H. as you will perceive. But I do not think there will be any trouble about it. Should they say any thing in the bank about it you can explain it. I took this course as there was no drawing upon Detroit & I thought it safer than by sending bills which might be lost. Should this be lost it would not be of value to the fund as it is only payable to the order of Mr. V. Buren. Mr. Stebbins the President of the Trust Co. said there would probably be no discount on it.

It will not trouble me to keep the watch on my A. It is worth worth \$75. and I will send you \$25. more or about the first of January. Should you sell it at once

I would have to be at the jewellers & they
would buy to sell again and would not pay
more than \$50. Perhaps \$60.

Should you much need the balance I will
try to lend it to you. Soon

I have long wanted to buy the watch or some
other for Mary. as I made her no present
(but my poor poor self.) when I married her
& I had long anticipated giving her one. & if
you cannot keep this I feel much rather it
would be this than any other.

We are all very well here. & are preparing for
winter, though now the weather is delightful
mild and the frost ^{has} ^{just} ^{begin} to change.

We heard from Belle yesterday. She was
in Philadelphia and they were enjoying
themselves much. They had been there about
five days & were to start the next day
for New York. where they expected to stay
ten days & then make a very short stay
in Boston. They will not be here until the
first part of November. They are coming
round the Lake Shore from Fredonia
in the Western part of New York state.

The baby is very well though we think she
is beginning to cut her teeth - She is not as
quaint, not quite so much so as she was. &
though still a remarkably good child.

She is mistaking the ~~the~~ ^{her} ^{upper} ^{lower} ^{teeth} & is

suppose is teeth cutting. She is not yet quite
four months old & it is rather early for that
yet many suppose it such. She is very
obedient more so than I supposed a child of
her age would be.

But how are all of your dear little children
I often think of them. particularly of Malcolm
honest character. He seemed more so than
most children & it is a noble trait in one.
There is more beauty & strength in simplicity
& integrity of character than in anything
else that I know of. more of meanness
And how is Anna? do they not get her too
much? I often tremble for a beautiful
little girl. I sometimes (I mean my judgment)
hope none will get to very interesting
But I can hardly say what I do hope for
think. Such little helpless things put into our
charge, whose beauty, innocence & simplicity
are to be moulded & shaped into what?

It is more than I know or dare think, for
Heaven knows that I am not fitted for such
work. I hope & trust Sally may grow up under
some good influence some good spirit.

Mary is a very fine housekeeper & takes excellent
care of her or I would not know what to do
or how to feel.

Remember me to Mrs Van Cleave & all the children
Yours &c Timothy Dalton



Mr Horatio P. Moore, New York

Philadelphia

Am. Express

Please acknowledge the receipt that I may know
it has arrived. Your mother wishes you also to
send again the direction of the box. She has not
your letter. She will forward the box at once.

Cincinnati June 29th 44

Dear Charlotte,

Soon after your last letter was rec'd or rather one from Mr. Wellen, I was taken ill of bilious fever, together with inflammation upon the lungs - have been very sick, but am now well, with the exception of a slight cough, which is daily getting better - I have great cause for thankfulness that I have been blessed with health almost uninterrupted for the past eleven years, when so much depended upon my exertions; I had intended to keep up my house two years longer, until Ellen would be educated - but Mr. Wellen is anxious that I should stop this fall; he will take the house until the lease is out, and for his father, and Mother, and I shall live with them, Mary will board in town, as she does not care to go to housekeeping at present - I believe it is best for me to make this arrangement as my health (altho pretty good) makes it necessary that I should take more care of myself than I could at all times in my present situation - Mr. W. will go on to this point in Sept. returns about the middle of Sept. - when if nothing happens to disappoint us, I shall give up my present cares, and ~~will~~ spend the remainder of my days among my children - we are still expecting Malvina, but no boats have come down yet - Ellen is very happy, and has gained the love of all her new friends, Mr. Tyler of

whose house she boards, is the Episcopal Clergyman
at Fredonia, he writes Mr Mellen that Ellen is his
first boarder, but ^{that} after knowing her, he should not
be willing to give her up; we had expected that she would
have been in the family of a Mr M'Clure, but it was not
convenient, and I am much pleased that she is with
Mr Tyler; he interests himself in her studies, altho he
has no connection with the school, and Mrs Tyler
directs her reading, when not employed with her lessons—
you must write her, direct "to Ellen S. Clarke Care of
the Rev and J. O. Tyler Fredonia Chas. Co. New York"—
she will be much pleased to hear from you, and then
your advice will do her good—May this dear child be
blessed, and may she become all that we wish her, all
that she can be—and may she make a truly good and
useful woman—I feel confident that her present opportunities
are all that we could ask, and pray God that they may result in
her present and future good—Mr. Gwynn's health is
failing; and he is much from home; in consequence he has
given up the Guardianship of Ellen, who has chosen Mr
Mellen in his stead—I felt like parting with an old
friend, he has been good to us all, and when he resigned
his trust, all his rough ways were forgotten, and I only
remembered your father's friend to whose care we have been
committed by him—I understand from Mr Caldwell
(who is recreating at Dayton) that your friends there are about
to make you a visit—how is Mrs Davies and the children?
give my love to her—hope you and family are well this
summer how is dear baby? Anna and Malvina, left M. that even

little Willie would be delighted to be in opportunity to
ride the horse, and fetch up the cows, he is a ~~very~~ lively
little fellow, and so affectionate, loves every body; our
little Bessie is a sweet child, but does not walk yet—
altho almost thirteen months old—The girls are such
very bad correspondents—Mary often says "now I must write
Charlotte to day" but the day passes over and no letter, now
it is from a dislike to letter writing—which is wrong for
she can write a very sweet letter, Belle also dislikes
writing, so that it falls upon me, or you would
never hear from us, my ~~servants~~ servants are better
than no news from home—Belle is as happy as women
can be, she has the dearest husband in the world,
the most considerate, most kind, I hope you will
all know him one of these days, and you must feel
love him as we do—remember me to John, Caroline's
family, Mrs Hunter in particular—My love to Horatio
and the dear children—how is Houston?

Good bye my dear child

Your affect. Mother
C. A. Clarke

10



Mrs. Charlotte O. Van Cleave,
Upsilanti,
Michigan

Remember your father's friend to
conducted by him — I understand
John is recovering at Bay View that you
to make you a visit — how is Mrs. Van
give my love to her — hope you will
summer how is dear baby? Anne and Mr.

New Haven July 6th 1847.

My dear Charlotte

I have just seen a lady from your
sister, who tells me she is acquainted with all my brothers
and sisters in that place - I cannot allow her to go
away without a line to you and dear Horatio - to
tell you how often I think of you and how truly
I love you - I am happy to hear you are all well, and
hope this warm weather will not entirely exhaust
you under the pressure of your maternal and do-
mestic cares - I was much gratified with Horatio's
affectionate letter - and hope he will write me again
when he has time - Col. Cutler and Lady always in-
quire of me concerning you both whenever I see them
and request me to send you their respects or to
be remembered. Mrs C. says she was much attached
to my brother and Lieutenant Davis - says they used
to visit her often and read to her. Since I wrote they
have broken up house keeping - sold off their neat and
handsome furniture their beautiful place, and
have taken board in the lower part of town - in
State St corner of Worcester - or in Worcester St cor-
ner of State I do not remember distinctly which.
They are excellent people and are respected by all who
know them - I very much regret the necessity which
led them to this course - they were so pleasantly sit-

Miss Horatio J. Pauline

Apprentice

Dayton Nov. 19th 1847

My dear brother,

I expect to leave in a day or two for Mo. I ought to have left a week or ten days ago - but John does not send me the money I left with him, nor write me a line, I think it passing strange and very unkind, It is too late in the season for me to trefle, and I must go immediately; I am forced to borrow the amount of the Check I left with John from my friends here, much to my mortification but it cannot be helped - How much better it would have been for me to have brought the money with me, and suffered the discount, than to have been harassed and mortified as I have been about that. I do think that John might have paid earlier attention to it - I cannot understand his motive for delay.

I am packed up, and ready to go, only lingering hoping still to get the money from John. I leave on Tuesday next certainly - the river is in good order and I hope to have a pleasant trip, if the weather do not turn suddenly cold - it has been very pleasant so far. Write to me at Lagrange - tell me all about your situation & prospects - how you like Rose Dale, &c. - Uncle has just returned from the north - he says you had better sell your land there if possible, thinks you might get three or four dollars per acre for it - taxes are very high, he paid \$15. this

year, and \$10. for some years past.

Our friends here are very kind to me - may God reward them for all their love - Kiss all the children for me - My compliments to Mrs. Brower -

I have time to write no more - Do not fail to have a letter awaiting me at Lagrange -

Give my much love to Charlotte - I hope she nips me a little - In much haste

Your own Louy

P.S. I sent a small bundle to Charlotte by Miss Cole of Monroe - directed or enclosed ^{to} one to John in Ypsa-
lanti -

year, and \$10. for some years past.

Our friends here are very kind to me - very good
wishes them for all their love - Help all the children
for me - Day can't find it to Mr. Brown -

I have time to write no more - Do not
fail to have a letter awaiting me at Adams -

Give my much love to Charles - I hope

D

Horatio P. VanCleave Esq
Saline
Michigan



Philadelphia

April 30 1849

My dear brother,

I left N.Y. last Friday
to spend a few days at this place
and have to prove my title by
saying of the others upon the exec-
utors of the will.

I have succeeded today in getting
them to pay back interest for
three years to the trust legacies.

This will give to you nine hundred
dollars. Executors fees would be chargeable
on this amount, as well as a state tax
assessed on collateral inheritances. But
I believe the executors will pay this
sum to you on account now, and
look forward to other changes of the law
very soon.

What you have to do then is
to send a fully certified power of
attorney to receive the money, to whom
you wish please.

If you have an Michigan Commission-
ers for the State of Pennsylvania their certif-

Care to the person who all that it
requires & support.

My attorney is very much in-
debted to you. Mr. E. J. Houston
has written to me of your letters
to offer to act as your attorney.

A letter from which
I recd. yesterday speaking of her enjoyed
highly her return of night and
mild weather. She is well.

In great haste affly.

Yours truly
E. J. Houston

PHILADELPHIA

Mr. Horatio P. Van Cleve

Saline

Michigan

My dear boy

I have written you quite a
letter but when I read it over I concluded
it to burn it, and as it is nearly
the time I must send this up.
I will however write a long letter to you
soon. The one I wrote to day was not
what I intended when I began, and
did not suit me at all. Take good
care of my letters for I am sure
that when it will bring you my
gratitude with the lesson to me for
the

Rosendale Nov 8th 1850.

Dear Mother,

I enclose a letter to Belle thinking that it will reach her sooner by that means, read it if you wish and pass it on to
Brestonburgh.

Perhaps this letter will find you enjoying the responsible duties of nurse to Mary's little one, if so, I hope you will soon be able to write us favorable accounts of your charge. Give my love to Mary and tell her she may be assured of my sympathy and kind wishes, and tell her also that ~~her letter will not be forgotten~~ my first letter to her, which has been due some time and which shall be forthcoming in a very short time.

The children are all very well, and seem to enjoy themselves well. Chick and Ellen grow finely, and Ellen's cheeks are very rosy.

By the way, Ellen wished me to tell you a piece of news which she omitted by that the Rev. Mr. Taylor who has been Horatio Notions has since that went gone to Portia, where I believe he is settled, and married a half breed woman a widow with six children!!! Whether he fell in love with the color at the time above mentioned or whether his affections were previously engaged, I have not yet learned.

Penny wishes me to say that she has learned to make first rate bread, indeed she can make as good as I can for I have taught her just my way and she knows no other.

he is learning to cook very fast, is going to stay with me
the winter and I have succeeded in getting another Irish
lavin now from the Emerald Isle who will do the house
work, and washing. So you see I have a prospect of getting
along very comfortably this winter and if we can keep well
I think we may be very happy. I have cut over my light
cloak into a very pretty sack and it is exceedingly com-
fortable to ride in. I went to Ipsilanti yesterday, and
spent the day. Mrs. Hunter has gone to New York to
spend the winter with William who is going in the spring
to China to retrieve his lost fortune.

I think they feel rather hurt in Ipsilanti that neither you nor
I should have to see them all summer, but I said all
I could by way of apology, and hope they will get over
it. William's failure has cramped them a good deal I fear
but as the farm is secured to them I hope they will be
able in time to get over their embarrassment.

Ellen has probably in her letter given you an account of her
A. A. visit. She enjoyed herself much I believe, she seems
sad and lonely since her return, but as she does not
tell me the cause of her feeling so I have asked her no ques-
tions about it, she may have told you.

She has been treated with considerable attention in A. A.
and a young gentleman, brother of Miss Sinclair, whom
you will remember, has been more than commonly polite,
I think moreover she is pleased with his attentions and al-
though I know of no reason why this should not be, still
I thought it my duty to tell you all I know about it.
He is a handsome youth and as far as I know a worthy

young man, is a dry goods merchant attentive to his
business and has I believe considerable capital to throw
upon, so that the probability is that he will be rich.
How far matters have gone I cannot tell, for I have
to pay in to other people's concerns and Ellen does not
seem very communicative. I only know that half past
and half in earnest I one day advised her to write to
you about the business, and she said she should
do so when matters were a little more settled or some
thing of that kind. I have only written this dear mother
because I know you are extremely anxious about her
I thought it right you should know, for then the proba-
bility would not be wholly on my shoulders. It is
probable if you were there, you would be perfectly satis-
fied with every thing, should matters take a serious turn
which may not after all be the case. At all events you
know more as much as I do, and of course you can
say and do as you please. I should prefer if you
saft that you should not say any thing to Ellen until you
hear from us again, for I cannot bear that she should
think I have been trying to interfere in any way with
her plans, indeed that has been the farthest from my
wishes, I have only endeavored to do as I should wish
to have another do by me in the circumstances.

I know of nothing objectionable in the case but
was it not right that you should know all about
it? Mr. Van Cleve has been anxious I should write
to you about it ever since she returned for he is anxious
that nothing of the kind should go on without your

positive knowledge knowing as he does that the
whole family are interested to have Ellen do well
and being unwilling to incur any blame, in case
she should form an attachment which you could
not all approve. I hope I have said nothing to alarm
you, I am sure at least intended to do so. The family
of which I speak is highly respectable I believe, and their
acquaintances in Detroit and the neighbouring towns
are all among the first people, but with the exception
of Mary ^{Leitch} whom you saw here last summer I
am merely a speaking acquaintance with them.
You don't distress yourself about this letter, for a personal
matter however, if you can understand my motive
that you will approve of my having said so.
I am to all, etc. the family send love to Grandma
and all the folks. Write as soon as you can.
And believe me ever your affectionate daughter

C. A. Van Coten

Oh Mary I am taking the medicine the doctor
prescribed for the fever, as soon as it seems
beneficial. The fever scarcely taken it long enough
to know much about its effects.
C. A. V.

[Aug. 12, 1850]

Dear Charlotte

I have delayed writing so long hoping to receive an answer to the letter I sent from Detroit but not receiving any I think it possible the package may have been detained in Ypsilanti. If you get the package you will find designated who the presents are for. We are quite anxious to hear from his petite sauvages how they bore the separation from papa-in & what advances they are making towards civilization. it is indeed a great responsibility you have undertaken far more than bringing up ordinary children. Malotin left this morning for Prestonburg expecting to spend about a week when he returns from there he will not stay long but hurry away to the mission immediately. I have the most singular nervous feeling about him in the world.

it seems all the time as if there was some-
-thing I should say to him or do for him which
I am forgetting and shall be sorry for when too
late. We have been out to gether making par-
-ty chairs but all his friends are either dead or removed
or absent so his time cannot pass so pleasantly
as it ought to do it seems to me especially when
he has been away so long. I have consulted
Dr. Bauer about you he says he will write you
a letter with several questions in it which after
you have answered he will be better able to
prescribe - but as Mother knows his dilatory habits
you must not expect he will attend to it
immediately - Cincinnati is comparatively healthy
just now and the weather much cooler than I expected
to find at this season. of course everybody is out of
town & though not much of a winter or winter
of weather I feel a little lonesome in missing the
familiar faces - We have not heard from Belle
most strange to say Mr. Nielsen was here and left

the very day before we arrived without leaving
a word with Biddy or a note in the office -
probably he was very much engaged and thinking
also of his mother - I hope you have not lost
your girl or have at least secured one in her place
when you write pray mention whether you have or
not it is too hard to be without assistance in such
a large family - Tell Mother that poor Mrs. Sher-
-wood has lost her other child does it not
seem very hard for her She has gone to New York
for change of scene if I am blessed with another
child nothing shall induce me to stay in
Cincinnati with it during the second summer
it seems impossible for me to realize that that
little chubby boy of yours is now passing through that
 ordeal so fatal to city children - We want to see
Mother very much but not until the storms are
over and there is no danger in crossing the lake
till then not to have her silk dress made up
till she comes down to my tea drinking - and Ellen
must defer her American till the fall fashions for you

as well as happily there is but one fashion
the fashion that is as well as convenient
Our little Ellen like her father she and her
she yet learned to sew I suppose Ellen is very
assiduous in her education her my love
and tell her Mr. Edwin patiently Isadore
wishes to write a word to you and I leave
him a place our love to all and kisses to
the children when Malcolm has time from
his studies he must write me

Yours affectionately

Mary Lusk

Love to Malcolm

from Isadore San Duval

August 12th 1850