



Horatio P. Van Cleve and
family papers.

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Mrs A. P. VanCleve

Care of H. P. VanCleve

Ann Arbor

Michigan

Black Church May 15th 1852

Dear Charlotte,

As I have just recd. Malcolms letter I thought best to enclose it to you immediately, knowing how anxious you are to hear, and judging from his letter that he had not written to you separately - poor child he has lost his little girl, may as we all feel for him, we cannot but be thankful that the little innocent has gone home to God, ere she tasted the cup of this worlds bitterness - may his other children live to bless him with their love, and may the evening of his days be more peaceful and happy than the morning, may he be able to live again among his early friends, without a sacrifice of duty, or principle, and enjoy the blessings of a civilized and christian home, among those to whom he is dear, - I hardly know whether to expect him this summer - his letter has been so long written he could hardly tell at that time - it seems almost a pity to tell little Ellen about her sisters death, she will take it so much to heart, and her remembrance of her must be so indistinct - you will know best about it, do not let her grieve - how are all the children - Mr. Mellen has lost his father, (he died about ten days since,) has just returned from Cincinnati where he has a burying lot ~~where~~ ^{in which} his mother and children were laid before - the old gentleman has been a sufferer from bad health many years, during the whole of which time, Mr. Mellen has shown him the most dutiful, and interesting affection - and feels his loss keenly, now that he no more sees him in his accustomed

sent - the blessing of God will most surely rest upon him,
for his attention to his parents during their life -
Mary's letter requires some explanation - Ellen is conditionally
engaged to Mrs Col. Foster's eldest son, just going into business,
he is only 21, and if any thing ever comes of it, two or three years
must pass before it would be prudent for them to marry; Mrs
Foster and the Springers are much pleased with Ellen and
pay her a good deal of attention. I think him quite too young
for Ellen still, if they are willing to wait until he is in business,
I could not object, if they are attached - I like Mrs Foster exceedingly,
and believe her to be truly a Christian woman - Mrs Tall was
Belle's look who left, to put her daughter with a sister, and
was to return or send some word - Mary is about starting for
New York, to see Frank on board ship, he is going with some other
American boys to France, to study for the Priesthood; will
be absent from five to seven years ^{such} - Bishop Doane "thinks he
was as clearly called as was St. Paul" -

when Mary returns (about three weeks) they are all coming up to
spend the summer with Belle, could you not come during
vacation? Mr Lincoln will be back and forth as he has time, and
as there is no court in Augst will most likely spend most of
that month here, now if you could ship away, you don't
know how soon you might be in Buckle's, where a
heartily welcome would ^{await} you as many children as suits your
convenience here is room enough - should Malcolm come, he
will be here before that time, and then we could all be
together once more - I mentioned this in my last letter -
has Mrs Lincoln sent the remittance to the first of May?
we are all well, Belle sends much love, is Lizzy St. Clair married

yet two are all my Michigan friends, how ^{Mrs A. Banck} ~~she~~ is quite well again,
how is your own health? I want very much to see you all,
the children have I know grown and improved a great deal
since last summer, especially the younger ones - Miss them
all for dear grandmother, Malcolm and Anna - might
find time to write me, I should be very glad to hear from them
- you will return your brother's letter as I wish to have
it when Mr Culbertson comes down - do you think that
Mr Banck will get a professorship? or does he prefer
his present situation - give my love to him - you must
try and find time to write if only a short letter, to
let us know how you are coming on, this is my second since
I heard from you - dear Malcolm I wish so much
that he could live among us, such a sad dreary life as
he must have, and so anxious about those little ones -
we can only pray, and hope, for him -

My love to all

Your Mother with affectionate

Est. Clarke.

when Malcolm sends the
remittance of which he
speaks, I shall have the
interest sent to you as
it becomes due, what your
now receive is not enough to
pay expenses but it all the
poor boy could do at the time

(Ann Arbor June 1st 1833)

My dear brother

John has just returned from New York & I learn through him that there is a possibility that you may be able to assist me in my present difficulties respecting my farm. If such a thing could be, it would be a great accommodation to me and make a vast difference in my prospects.

Mr Brown from whom I purchased, either in consequence of his own difficulties, or from his particular affection for my brother, has pressed ~~in~~ hard, so that time is not allowed me to sell and save myself. What I want is time. The farm is no doubt worth what I gave for it, and were it not that the mortgage had been foreclosed I could no doubt have sold it ere this. Gentlemen are coming to this State, daily, from the East to purchase farms. But no one would pay me any price when he might buy it for but little over half price at auction.

Our mortgage sales here are generally thinly attended, and the property is in most cases bid in by the one who holds the mortgage, leaving the one who gave it liable for all the balance that may be due.

There is now due on the mortgage about \$2100. If sold for that, there will stand against me about \$300. due one year from next November.

My friends think that with a little time I could sell the farm for \$3000. and the land I have in Wayne Co for \$1,000, at least. If the farm is lost, the wild land (~~4000~~ acres) in Wayne County must go with it I fear.

If you or Mr Gibbs could loan me the money it could be abundantly secured, and I would be willing to pay ten per cent interest. which could be paid when payments come due in January, in Philadelphia. If however you should not be able to assist me the interest you have manifested in my prosperity will be affectionately remembered.

My desire of course the farm is to be sold on the 1st of July next.

With much regard

Your brother

J. P. Van Cleave

Houston has a copy of the articles of sale &c which he said he would send to you by to day's mail. — Mr Champion of Ipsilanti to who \$650. of the mortgage is due is willing to let it remain for several years.

Am Arbor June 12th 1862

Dear brother

I received yours of the 7th inst. yesterday afternoon, and took it to Houston requesting him to write and let you know what he was willing to do. He without hesitation consented to let ^{you have} the interest due him from Philadelphia and immediately wrote to that effect, in an answer to your letter. I have not been able to see Isho, and do not know what he could do. If it is in his power I know he would not hesitate a moment.

My object in wishing to borrow money now, is to get the property in such a situation as will enable me to sell it to the best ^{advantage}. It is difficult to find a purchaser here, who willing to pay what the farm was worth; could pay \$2100 in so short a time. I have no doubt, (and those who are acquainted with the farm agree with me) that I could readily sell for \$3000, if I would take, say \$1000 down & the balance in one, two & three years. The owners of two lots of land adjoining mine have each refused \$22 1/2 per acre for the lots on which are no improvements, such as buildings &c, ~~while~~ ^{if} the building orchard, water &c on my farm at the lowest calculation are worth \$1200. When I say my farm is worth \$3000 I put a low estimate on it

Comparing it with my neighbors.

I cannot say what the income from it amounts to. I have let it out this year on shares & the income will depend upon the crops. I suppose it will be between two and three hundred dollars. The taxes on it amount to about \$10. The taxes on the land in Wayne Co amount to about the same.

I offered the farm to one of my neighbors for \$2600 to save it from the hammer and he was very anxious to get it for he considered it a great bargain; and he would have concluded the bargain immediately if he could have raised the \$2600.

The plank road from Galine to Detroit runs within a mile of it. This road is now almost, if not quite completed. Of course it will add to the value of the farms that lie so near it.

I believe I stated in my last letter I would authorize you to draw the interest coming to me from Philadelphia which, I hope, will amount next winter to \$450. - If you could help me in this matter Houston will have the papers made out properly & to your satisfaction. So much for business.

Charlotte & I frequently think & talk of you and the little ones, & make our plans of visiting all our Eastern friends when we get out of debt. It is pleasant to think of such a pleasure, even should we never enjoy it. Give our best love to your wife and many kisses to the little ones.

May Anna has forgotten me entirely. She never writes.

Yours sincerely attached brother

A. A. Van Cleve

Ann Arbor June 21st 1852

My dear brother

On Saturday evening Houston handed me yours of the 22^d inst. enclosing a draft for \$2100. I had been out to see a sick neighbor in the country, and was glad to find that he had taken it from the office and answered immediately as I did not return till after the mail had closed.

I do not know how to make sufficient acknowledgments for your kindness in this matter. The proper securities shall be made at immediately and forwarded.

As soon as we can learn who holds the balance ^{of the mortgage} we will see what arrangements can be made towards taking it up. I think there will be no difficulty respecting it. If Brown controls it I am confident he would gladly consent to it. — No one appears to know his whereabouts at present. He is a singular mortal. Last winter he went off and was gone for some months without leaving any address. I trust I will be able to hunt him up in the course of a week or two, when the mortgage becomes due.

Sincerely & affec^{ly} yours
H. Van Cleve.

Couch Orchard Nov 25 1852

Dear Charlotte

Your letter of Oct. 26th I must answer by
only a few lines, to day as the mail leaves in a short
time — in the first place the times for your receiving
the remittances for the children are the first of Augst, first
of November, first of February, and the first of May, I hope
you will be particular in keeping the account of your receipts
as it will save Mr Lincoln as well as yourself trouble
he has so much to think of — I did not see the letter you
spoke of ^{as} written to Mr Lincoln — Mr Mellen writes here about
while in Cincinnati, if it will be for your benefit I hope it
will be attended to — have you been able to make a satis-
factory arrangement with regard to the farm? I have been
quite anxious to hear about it — Am very glad that your
school is so prosperous, but fear that your labors are more
than you can support — was glad that the clothing sent for
the children reached you, and hope that it may give you
some stitches — did you receive a letter apprising you
that it was on its way, enclosing five dollars from me,
which I thought might pay for making some of the garments,
should you find it best to appropriate it in that way —
am sorry that Anna did not get her letter ready, she
must not fail to send it, and I will write her an
answer from the wilds of Kentucky, here is Malcolin
progressing in his studies tell him that although

grandma is rather crook, I shall always be proud to
hear of his progress - with regard to my visiting you
what times in the spring could I be particularly useful
to you - the reason I ask is this - you must know that
Mary, and Belle, are talking of making a tour of the
eastern ~~cities~~ ^{cities} next summer if nothing happens to prevent
Ellen is to go with them - and they wish to leave the three
little children at Peach Orchard with grandmamma -
it is not likely that they would start before some time in
June - now I might come to Ann Arbor and stay until
late in May, what do you say, I had intended when
I visited Michigan - again to have made a visit of at
least six months or a year and had looked forward
secretly to next fall, but now think that perhaps you
would rather I should come in the spring, you must write
me particularly - Belle went down last week to
Cincinnati took with her the little boy, and left Susan
with me, and Aunt Ellen they will remain below
until after Christmas - Mr. M. will be back and path
as his business makes it necessary - so here we are in our
~~little~~ castle among the hills, withing each stormy night
that some benighted traveler might seek shelter by our
comfortable fire - our family consists of two children (Willie
is at home at present although I expect he will go down
when his father returns) two servants, a man, and woman,
Ellen and myself - I wish that we could have half a
dozen of your little folks to spend the holidays
with us - am pleased that you like your new President

when did Mr. Lyman and family go? do you know
them is Lottie married - is Fanny Stillier in Ann Arbor
how is Mrs. Kingsley health & how is Mrs. Houston Barclay
do you see John's family, often remember me particularly
to all - I did not see Horace's Joseph's coat, he must
look very funny in it - my love and kisses to all
the children answer as soon as possible.

Your Mother with much
affection.

C. A. Clarke

Does Mr. Barclay continue
pleased with teaching? is his
health good? give him my
love and best wishes -
how is Mrs. Thompson and
family, is Martine at home -

Ann Arbor Dec 29th 1852

Dear brother

I enclose Houston's order for \$240.
and mine for \$300. on William Houston.

From your letter of Jan 23 in which you
said:

"As I learn from John's letter that he might
be put to inconvenience by the non-receipt
himself of the January interest from his Lega-
cy, I shall endeavor to do without it." —
John concluded that you would not require
the amount of interest coming to him, and
it would incommode him seriously to do
without it as he has not made any cal-
culations for such an event.

When the mortgage on the land in
Wayne County was sent to the Register
in Detroit, a request was sent with it
to return it as soon as it was recorded.
On the receipt of your letter a few days
since Houston wrote again to the Register,
~~saying~~ this letter has been detained a
day or two, expecting it. If it does not
come tomorrow or next day we will send
by some private opportunity or go for it, and
forward it immediately.

I should like to hear from you as soon as convenient to learn your wishes respecting Schurz interest.

Please present my best respects & wishes to your wife, and tell the little ones they have an uncle & aunt who think much and often talk of them. I have little wish to be remembered.

With much regard

Your brother

J. P. Van Cleve

I have had several applications for my farm, but have not yet been able to sell it on favorable terms. It is supposed by all who profess to know anything respecting the value of real estate that property will sell better in the Spring than now owing to the steady increase in the price of all kinds of produce and from the increasing facilities for transportation. I intend to sell as soon as possible. I have urged John to write to Mr Woodward as you requested. I do not know whether he has written. If he has not I will do it myself, although I would prefer that he should as he is better acquainted with such matters.

Peach Orchard May 30th 1859

Dear Charlotte

Your letter to Mary of the 7th was
rec'd here a few days since, and I am writing
and enclosing one from Malcolin, which came to me at
the same time, you will see that he thinks rather
hardly of you all for not writing, and that it is
quite doubtful if he visits home this summer, still
if he can come having business for the Company, I know
that he will — little Ellen will be pleased to hear
how much her father loves, and how hard he is working
for her — and I know that she will improve as fast as
possible because it will make him so proud, and happy
he loves the little boy too, and he must try as fast as he
can to be a man, and then he can help take care of
his sister, and his mother will be happy, and thank the
good Spirit for giving her such a son, and bye and bye
he can go and see her, and tell all the wonderful
things which he has learned, and speak of the kind friends
whom he has met, and the beautiful ^{country} where he has
lived, and of the Great and Glorious Being by
whom he has been sustained —

I am very anxious to see you all, and intend now
to visit you this fall, (should nothing happen to prevent)
and with Ellen to visit her and my friends at Detroit
and intend spending a few days there either going on

returning; and perhaps you will be able to return with
us, we can arrange all that when I come — Belle would
write, but Mr. Mellen and Ellen are just leaving for
Cincinnati, to be gone two weeks, and the wife writes
next time, sends much love to Mr. V. and yourself
and remembrance to all Nephews and nieces —
I shall go to Cincinnati as soon as Mr. M. returns,
and remain until Mary is able to come to Peach
Orchard. Belle has given up the idea of going East
this summer, her home is so pleasant, and she
has ^{such} pleasant friends to visit her at this season,
and she has become so attached to her poultry yard,
and is raising such a number of chickens, ducks,
turkeys, and geese, (not to say a word about the
guineas) and her children are so healthy here, that she is
as happy, as any one can be in this uncertain life —
I have a great deal to say to you my dear child
but when I come you shall hear all, and I feel that
my visit will be a happy one to us both —
when I look back along the path by which our Good
God has led me since your dear father's death,
altho. I so much to regret in my erring course,
my heart overflows with gratitude to the Great Father of
the fatherless and the widows God, and I find
myself constantly repenting, "Praise the Lord Oh! my
soul, and forget not all His benefits, who saveth
thy life from destruction, who crowneth thee with
mercies and loving kindness" —

hope to have a letter in a few days announcing
your safety — am very glad that Mr. Bancroft has turned
his attention to Engineering, he can hardly fail to do well,
where will he be located? Let me know how Mr. Kercheval
is and if his Southern trip was of any benefit to his health
— Mr. M. is about starting, my kindest remembrance
to all dear Carbon friends — and do not let the
children forget Grandmother, tell Lizzie and Ellen
that I shall remember my promise to them when I
come — Given Mother with affection —

C. A. Clarke

Ellen's love to all —

Mrs Charlotte D. Panclave

Ann Arbor

Michigan

WVernon Ohio June 28th 1853.

My dear brother

Your letter should have been answered sooner, but I have had some applications for my farm, with some prospect of selling it, and I wished to see the result before answering you.

With regard to the mortgage held now by Mr. Champion, it will not be necessary for you to take it up. He purchased it some few months since of Knowen, and will let it stand as long as the interest is paid. Lending money on mortgages is his principal business. —

Would you be willing to apply part of the payment made to you last winter on the interest that is now due, or will be due in July? ~~Also~~ will you dep. a line to Houston at Ann Arbor, as it is possible I may not be home for some weeks. — I think there is but little doubt, but that I will be able to sell my farm in the month of July or August, as there are many from the State of New York looking for farms and

land with us is rising rapidly.

I presume you have heard of the death of Sister Louisa ere this. When I received the sad intelligence of her death, I was preparing to make her a visit. We had heard that her health was not good, and feeling some anxiety about her, my brothers and myself had concluded that it would be well for me to go and see her, and in a day or two I would have started little thinking that her summons had gone forth.

It would have been a great consolation to us if a brother or sister had been with her during her last moments. She expressed her readiness to go, as far as her happiness was concerned, but felt that it was hard to leave her children. — Willie & Mary will go to Kentucky in September. I regret much that they could not come to Michigan. They go to Mr. Dawciss' brother-in-law, Mr. Bell, who is their guardian.

With much love to your wife & children,
Your brother A. P. Van Cleave

New Haven June 29. 1853.

My dear brother

You probably know by this time, through a letter from me to Danston, that the heavy tidings of our dear sister's death had reached me before the receipt of yours. Still dear brother, it was a melancholly satisfaction to receive the account again from you - and to hold a little converse with you on a subject so deeply interesting to us both. However little may be the intercourse we have with each other - however slight the hope of seeing the faces of each other in this life - still how great the comfort to know that our friends, our dear brothers and sisters breathe the breath of life - that they are in the land of the living! We shall often hear of their welfare - we may yet meet again.

But now this sweet thought in reference to dear Louisa is past - She has written her last letter - sent the last message of love - breathed her last prayer for us all - and now she too is numbered with

the dead? How must her faith have been tried in parting with her dear children! - But I trust her Saviour, whom she loved and honoured in health, did not forsake her in that trying hour - She felt doubtless that it was comparatively a small thing to relinquish the residue of her sorrowful life - but who will watch and guard and warm my little ones? - Ah! this is the sorest trial - But surely He was with her, to strengthen and comfort her - and to assure her that he would be to her dear children better than any earthly friend?

The two older children I trust have been thoroughly instructed in their duty - William I judge is an excellent boy, and will be an example to his sister - But the poor little baby - who will train it up in every its dear mother would have done? - How much I should like to have it - But I suppose its father will choose to have it near him.

I am glad you had it in your heart to go to her, and if possible to cheer her before her death. It will be ever a pleasant thought to you my dear brother, though not permitted to put it in execution - Dear Lanny, how she would have been overjoyed to see

you, for I well know she loved you dearly - But is she not now full of joy and of peace - Think of all she has joined in the Land of Spirits - What a throng to welcome her there. - No more parting - no more tears. Blessed - happy sister! May we all meet you there - and spend an eternity together in the blissful presence of God.

Please give my best love to Charlotte - It was a sweet letter that she wrote me - How could she do it with so young a baby - I should not have thought such a thing possible I fear.

You suggest the possibility that we may be - you her sanction - I wish it be so indeed - I often fear I shall never see you or Hester again - Life is uncertain - Twice we have been warned - Oh! how loudly! - we too must soon follow - But ~~we~~ ^{may} ~~should~~ ^{we} be spared a few more years I hope we may meet either here or in Michigan - I should love to see your little flock - and indeed all my nephews & nieces there - They must be a goodly number in all - And I trust will all grow up to be good men & women - Very affectionately your sister M. D. Gibbs.

Ann Arbor Nov. 13th 1853.

My dear brother

I returned from Ohio on Saturday last, in good health, and found my family well. During my absence, Houston succeeded in selling my farm for \$3000. The purchaser appeared and agreed to pay you \$1560 with the interest to become due thereon at ten per cent until paid, from the 27th of Oct. the day he made the purchase. The balance that is due you I am to pay, and will provide for, from the next instalment that becomes due in Philadelphia, and will give you an order for the amount.

Houston paid Champion \$561. and took me to the Register's office to show me that the mortgage had been properly discharged. This was paid out of the Cash that the purchaser paid down. (\$500)

There is still due me \$628. which is secured by a mortgage on the farm. The payments to become due after yours. One half on the 1st of Nov/57, the other half on the 1st of Nov/58, with annual interest at 7 per cent. This mortgage I should like to dispose of to you at such a rate as to pay you ten per cent on the investment, if you feel so disposed. My object is to pay all the debts I owe at stores &c. As they are not very

pressing, I will not feel particularly disappointed, if you cannot purchase the mortgage.

I have been engaged in Engineering this past summer, and like the business. Was somewhat in hopes that my duties might call me Eastward so that I might have the pleasure of visiting you and Sister Mary Anna. But I heard no such pleasant sound. My labors have been confined to Ohio, within twenty miles of Dayton; and I had the pleasure of visiting my Dayton friends occasionally. I left them all well on Friday last.

Charlotte wishes to be remembered. Give our warmest regards to your wife, and kisses to the children. I sincerely hope we will some day have the pleasure of becoming better acquainted.

With sincere regard your brother
A. P. Van Buren

I should like to hear from you soon. I concluded you would be glad to hear that the farm had been sold and the Champion mortgage paid and discharged. — I have been interrupted by visitors so often that I fear I have hardly made myself intelligible.

H PV

The land in Wayne County. The Cham-
pion Mortgage being paid & discharged, and
\$340 having been paid you, the farm is ample
security for the payment of the balance due
you, for I consider the mortgage I hold on it
as perfectly safe & good, and that is of no ~~value~~
title after yours is paid. I should like to bor-
row some money on the land in Wayne County
if you are willing to discharge the mortgage.
I expect to go to Ohio again in February, when
I am engaged in Engineering, and wish to pay

Ann Arbor Dec. 9th 1853

Dear Brother

I herewith send you an order
on W.C. Houston for \$247.00. When paid I would
be glad if you ~~send~~ send me a statement of the
amount that you have endorsed on the mort-
gage I gave you, for the satisfaction of the
purchaser of my farm. The statement in
your last letter to me, would have been all
he needed if you had not spoken of it merely
as an account, without any reference to the
Mortgage.

Mr Clark Rogers, who purchased the farm, lived
within a half mile of it, and owned land adjoining
it. He paid me \$800 in cash, out of which the Cham-

prior Mortgage was paid. He assumed the payment of the mortgage you held, principal & interest, the terms of which, of course, were not varied; and he gave me a mortgage on the farm for the balance due me, to be paid in '37 and '38, after you have been paid up. If you would consent to it, it would be an accommodation for him to make the payments about the 1st of November when farmers generally have sold & received payment for their wheat, rather than in July, during harvest, when it is difficult to raise money. If it will suit your convenience to extend to him that privilege, I would be glad.

After W.C.H. pays this order for \$247. would you be willing to discharge the Mortgage on

the land in Wayne County. The Champion Mortgage being paid & discharged, and \$540 having been paid you, the farm is ample security for the payment of the balance due you, for I consider the mortgage I hold on it as perfectly safe & good, and that is of no value after yours is paid. I should like to borrow some money on the land in Wayne County if you are willing to discharge the mortgage. I expect to go to Ohio again in February, when I am engaged in Engineering, and wish to pay some debts before I leave. My family will remain here, excepting my eldest son, who accompanies me, as an assistant.

Engineering agrees with me well. My health was never better, and liking this employment, I am always in good spirits. It has one drawback, however, I am away from my family much of the time.

I hope it will not be many years before I can make you a visit.

Give my warmest regards to your wife, and kiss the little ones, for their uncle. With sincere regard your brother
H.P. Van Cleave

E.A. Johnson.

Charlotte wishes to be remembered.

H PV



July 10th 1854

My Dear Sister,

Mr. Lincoln is
absent in Massachusetts, at
the home of his father, who is
dangerously ill - perhaps dead
or dying. I have therefore taken
the liberty of opening all letters
directed in a female hand -
and hasten to reply to yours.

Am truly glad Mr. Lincoln
is so cold - and wish we could
make an amalgam of Lake
Superior air and the dusty Sum-



stony, stifling air of Cincinnati -
and so take each our share -

Our children are all well
to my great surprise. Little Helen
has two teeth and does not
seem to suffer getting them.

Mr. Melcen and Maria have
gone home - poor Belle is very
near her time. Mrs Appleton
also is out of town so I am
a Lady Selkirk and have
a delightful time. Pray
hurry Mr. L's hat, he has
wondered when he will be gone before
he gets it, and he would
be so glad to have it when he

returns - it quite appals me
to think it has to be made
yet - he is dreadfully im-
- patient and has the head ache,
and says he won't wait for
it any longer, and wonders
what Charlotte is thinking of
he, Can't you find something in
the shape of a Detroit hat
ready made?

I suppose we
may. Some look for Melcen. I
assure you I long to see him
and suppose his little ones also
are very anxious. Give my
love to all my sisters and
nephews in the way Benjamin

Franklin wished to bless the
victuals - see notice - To Charleston
like his father? I remember
my handsome riding-master
he leaves town to-day on account
of a most scandalous story like
regard to himself and Mrs. Dickson
his wife has told me and many
others even poor Mrs. Taylor but she
saw him in the dressing room together
in a situation too dreadful for belief -
however it is very generally believed
and "I would not for the truth you see
I tell you the tale as twice told to me?
I have seen things tending to confirm it but
should think Carrie Weston's fate would be a
warning - - - Good bye -
Mary Weston

Mrs. H. P. Van Cleave

Ann. Arbr

Mich.



Cum gratia May 20th 54

My dear little Ellen

Yesterday afternoon

Plac L Schmidt, your good grandfather, called to see me and left this little picture to be given to you - it is a picture of the blessed Virgin the Mother of our Lord. He spoke of you and your dear father & mother with great kindness, he is going to St Louis this week and will probably see your father before we do. I am going to write to day a letter telling father of the death of Aunt Belle. that the news may meet him in St Louis and we be spared

The pain of telling him.

And Charlotte -
told you of that report in the newspaper
which turned out to be false. God has preserved
your faith to you - Pierre Le Schaudt was speaking
to him yesterday so says he is one of the
bravest men he ever knew. You must try
and have your hair very nice for when he
likes to see it before he comes - and
Chuck too must be a good boy and not
run away as he used to - I received
a letter from Aunt Charlotte last night
saying that Mr. Chapman was there, he spent
an evening with us on his way, but
wished me not to mention it to any
one as he wished to surprise Aunt
Charlotte -

Aunt Charlotte I heard from
Grandma yesterday and she is
better. All the rest of the Pease
Orchard people are well also -

Pearl & Ellen are well also
Mary Ann and her little sister
who is now with me. They are
both going to school together at
the Courser on Sixth Street, If you
and Chuck come down with father
this summer - we shall all be glad
and you will go and sit no more
again - Give my love to Uncle
Pease Aunt Charlotte and all the cousins
and believe me your affectionate Aunt
Mary -

I have just received a letter from father, dated
April 2nd saying he was about starting for the
United States and will be here in June next. Your
dear mother is coming with him as far as Pennsylvania where
he is to purchase a farm so probably you may see
her and your little brother and sister very soon. God
bless you my little niece - your affectionate Aunt
Mary

Ellen Clarke

Michigan

Mrs. F. C. Van Cise.

Ann Arbor

Michigan

Cincinnati June 18th 1854

Dear Sister,

If you had written me when you first reached home, I do believe I should have answered it immediately, but as you left some time elapse you gave me a sort of excuse for unpunctuality, of which my inactivity immediately availed itself - but now Mrs. L. keeps repeating, why don't you write to Charlotte and ask after my straw hat - which accordingly I do - It is very warm here, and to day as I sit in short gown and petticoat, I can't help envying Mrs. Van Cleve his northern location, how delightful it must be on the lake to day plenty of delicious pick too; I wish I was a copper digger. Mr. O'Brien is again in New York - he will be there a week or two and then pass through Cincinnati on his way home. Poor Belle I dare say she felt pretty bad about her keys - Did you see Malcolm's name in the Tribune apropos of Garrison Stephens expedition? I shall expect him, soon and long to ride on horseback with him - Carrie Weston has sued for a divorce on plea of drunkenness and idleness; there is one of your love matches - commenced ~~was~~ me to mistakes of convenience - My children are both very well, but Mrs. L. is all broken out with boils, in a

Mamma to let you cry - how is it possible
to love, honor and obey a man covered with briars?

Miss Appleton has come home from Mrs. Snowalls
wedding all surrounded with honey-suckle halos, and
looks inspired - it was a most brilliant affair as I
dare say the papers have informed you. Apropos of
weddings - I enclose a letter which came to me
from Sandy directed Mrs. F. D. Linder on the outside
envelope, and I opened them both at once - when a
letter in German and a lock of hair burst upon
my astonished vision; for two days I knew not what
to make of it, especially the lock of hair; but at
last by dint of the paper signed to the letter, I made
up my mind it was an affair of the heart between
Sophie & Valentine. Make an excuse to her for
my opening the letter, and assure her I know
not a word of German - if my delaying the letter
should break Valentine's heart - so much the better for
you if you like Sophie - Give my love to Anna
and Malcolm and Ellen and Grace and Lizzie and
Lynour and Morty and Sam and if I have left
out any of them it is through want of knowing all
their names - the children send love

Yours truly

Mary Linder

Ann Arbor Oct. 27. 1854

Dear Brother

I herewith enclose a draft
on the Metropolitan Bank N.Y. city for
\$316.00, which Mr Clark Rogers just
handed me, and requested to forward
to you. Please to send Mr. Rogers
a receipt, showing that the amount
has been endorsed on the mortgage
you hold against him. and that it
covers the instalment due on the 1st
July last and interest to this date.
Direct to

Clark Rogers

Ypsilanti

Michigan.

Please present my warmest
regards to your wife and kiss the
little ones for their uncle.

My wife & eldest daughter, I

Ad H

expect, are in Dayton to day.
They are on their way to Cincinnati.
My family are all well. We
have six children, all beauties
of course.

Cass is making a Squatter
Sovereignty speech in the Court
House. I must hear what he
has to say.

Farewell, may God bless
you & yours.

With sincere regard

Your brother

A. A. Ambler



Miss Anna H. Van Cleve
Care of T. D. Lincoln Esq
Cincinnati
Ohio

Sabbath evening
Ann Arbor Dec 3^d 1834

My darling child,

I wrote you a short letter on Friday morning and father also wrote to you. I suppose you wrote to us on the same day, and that we shall get your letter on Tuesday or Wednesday. I shall always write to you if possible on Sunday evening and once during the week so that you will get a letter from me at least once in three days, and at the end of those eight weeks, of which you say so much, you will probably see me and can tell me in one hour more than you could write in all that time. We are all getting along very well and are looking forward with as much pleasure as you perhaps, to the

time when you will be with us
again - We have had quite a
snow storm last night and to-
day, the snow being about four
five inches deep. It is very cold and
I have not ventured out to church
to-day for when the snow is so
deep I always get my ankles wet
and take cold unless I can dry
them, a task which it is rather
difficult to accomplish by the
church stoves as you may remember
- I want you to be very careful
to keep your feet dry and warm
this winter, your health depends
upon it more than you can
realize now - Father went to church
this morning, and says that Mr
Curtis preached one of his finest
sermons. Malcolm went to the
Episcopal Sabbath school, and also

to church there. He seems to like Mr
Lumsden very much, and we think
it is better perhaps to let him go
there than to urge him to attend
when he does not like to go. I hope
he may learn a great deal that
will benefit him - Mr Lumsden
is his Sabbath school teacher, and
this evening he has been studying
his lesson - Father did not go out
this evening as he had a kind
of nervous toothache, and was
afraid to venture in the cold
wind - I hunted up Henry Ward
Becher's sermon on the top of the
Arctic, and read it aloud. It
is a very splendid sermon and
one that I think must do good.
Mother writes me that he and Ed are
boarding in Brooklyn at Mrs Sack-
ett's. I hope they attend Mr Beecher,

church, I know he is a good man
and think no one could listen
to such sermons as he preached
without being profited. When you
go to New York you must go to hear
him sometimes and you will
go too to hear Dr Alexander for
dear father's sake. What have
you been doing to-day? Have
you been to church? and where?
How do you like Mrs Wilson's preach-
ing? and have any of the Presby-
terian ladies called to see you
besides the lady opposite? When
I come for you we will go to the
old church together. It does me so
much good my child to read in
your letters that you love your
Bible. I feel so safe about you, I
know that so long as you love it
and follow its teachings you

will not go astray. If you love the
Bible, of course you love the good
God who gave it to us to be
our guide and comfort, and
if you make him your friend
my shield, nothing can harm you.
Let him in his to commit you more
than once each day, and oh it
is such a blessing to feel that al-
though our little lamb is not gath-
ered into our fold each night, she
is safely folded in her Father's
protecting arms, and that he
will suffer no harm to befall
her. Cling closely and confidently
to him, my darling, when you
are in trouble of any kind go to
him, and ask him to help and
comfort you, and you will not
ask in vain - Always strive to do your

[Dec. 3, 1854]

duty to all about you. Never let
your homelick feelings make their
around you uncomfortable even
happy. Be kind and obliging to
all, and don't wait for some great
occasion to practice self-denial or
to do a kindness to others, remember
that little things make up the
sum of human happiness and
the child who every day does her
duty and strives in every way
to make others comfortable does
much or more for the good of her
fellow beings than a great hero or
statesman. So all with a view
to the glory of God, let every one see
by your daily words and conversa-
tion that you love and honor the
Savior and try to follow the blessed
example he has set you, and your
influence will be felt for good.

The children all speak of you very
often, and will be delighted to
see you. Samson is a sweet child and
a great cooer, he rules the house-
hold, and is becoming every day
more lovely and interesting.
Little Mother is getting very fat, is
very good and is as pretty and
smart as ever. Seymour, our Sep-
mour, is a darling child. I think
he is getting over his unpleasant
croup, and is as smart a child
as any one need have. He is al-
ways at the head, reads remark-
ably well, is coming along finely
with his Geography, and bids
fair to be the scholar of the family.
Horace is a fine child. Has a noble
disposition and is a universal
favorite. He reads very well and
is coming on well in his studies.

Lizzie, dear little Lizzie is a sweet
child. She has just bid us good
night and wishes Mamma was
at home. Won't you be glad to
see them. Ellen has been a sleep
for some time. She is a very good
girl and we all love her dearly.
She studies hard, and is very affec-
tionate and kind to all. I think
she will make a superior woman.
Mabel has just come home from
church and gone to bed. He is a dear
boy, and will be right glad to
see you. I will have him write to
you soon. He is attending school stead-
ily now, and is a very good boy.
Now you have the list. How is little
Beattie? and how is my little
pet, Ellen? Keep them for me, and
tell them I hope to see them soon.
always remember me to the
girls. I hope Katrina's leg is entirely well.
When is that wedding to take place?

[Dec. 3, 1854]

I hope you are getting along nicely with your lessons. Remember me to Madame de Motte and her daughter, also to Mons. Collin. I can never be sufficiently grateful to him if he makes a good singer of you. How pleasant it will be to hear you sing and play again. The Piano is seldom opened now but when you come back we will make it earn its living and make up for lost time. I rec'd a short letter from Mott and one from Ed the other day. Mott was very busy, and could not write a long letter. He seems to be doing very well, and is as happy as he will ever be away from you. He wrote principally to make me promise to go for you.

in right necks, so you took that
method did you, you rogue to
make us consent to your request?
Very well, I will see to this when
I come to Cincinnati. I must
write to Mont to morrow, and
I think very likely I may get
a letter from him in the morn-
ing - He is a dear boy and I don't
believe his own mother loves him
better than I do. I heard from her
the other day, she is well and
very happy in Rochester. I hope that
Mont is determined to have them
in New York before a great while.
I wish you would try and find
out if Mrs Hazard's little boy were
not well, and how they all are.
Could you not go and see Mrs Chapman
Albion? Ask Aunt Mary about it. Give
much love to Uncle Lincoln and
Aunt Mary, also to Mary Estlin
and Miss Appleton when you see
them. Good night my own darling.
God bless you - Your loving mother
C. A. Chapman

Amherst Dec 4th 86

My darling daughter

Winter has come upon

us in earnest, and Mother is
hard at work, making Caps
to protect the children's ears from
the attacks of Jack Frost and
Old Boreas. Seymour is delighted
with his, but Eddie finds fault
with his because it has not a
new ribbon. Horace's is not yet com-
pleted; not being in vogue, but
Mother makes one that he may
be in unison with the other
children. Sammie is going
about the room like a roaring
lion, seeing what mischief he
can do, poking shoes in my face,
pulling my paper from me, de-
stroying my newspapers, and scat-
tering Mother's work about the
floor. — I believe we told you

that we had our friends here
on Thanksgiving day. Charlotte
had a ham on the table that
she had brought (stolen I guess)
from Cincinnati. (I mean the
ham, not the table). The first
question John asked (he carried
it) was, Did not this ham
come from Cincinnati? You
must tell Aunt Mary.

Mother had a letter from Ed
Weller today. He is in New York
enjoying himself much and
appears to be in very good spi-
rits. Mort was invited to dine
with Bryant on Thanksgiving day
but declined.

Malcolm is attentive to
his studies & I think is deter-
mined to do well.

Good bye may God bless
you my dear child. Keep up
good courage. As you have
requested it, Mother calculates
to come after you in eight weeks.
Your own dear Father
D. St. C. to love

Write soon, the girl feels badly - I have
nothing thing to tell you - from our
little girl. Don't forget you all have
Cincinnati Dec 21st 1884

My own darling Mother

Oh how shall I tell you.
Dear Aunt Belle is dead - forgive me darling,
if I have told you too suddenly. Uncle got a
telegram from uncle Miller, he was then
at Portsmouth on his way down here. With
Grandma, Aunt Clara and dear Aunt Belle's
remains. She died Sunday. We expect
them this afternoon or evening. Poor dear
Grandma and poor uncle Miller
are nearly broken hearted. I wish you were
here you would know just what to do.
Willie has been here he came up ^{the front} stairs just
as I was coming down the back stairs, I heard
him say "Auntie's Mother dead" poor child.
Aunt Mary feels very badly indeed. I wish
so much that you were here you would
be such a comfort and would know what
to do Aunt Mary does not. Oh! Mother you
have always loved dear Aunt Belle so much
and it will be a great blow for you - but
God help you to bear it. My precious Mother,

You know Aunt Ellen will come down, and
surely to meet at such a time. Aunt Mary
could not be angry with her any longer.
Dear Aunt Belle was so good and pure
and so much like a child. I think she
must be a great deal happier now. Oh!
I think she was a good Christian, even if
she did not belong to any church. I hope
she is with her dear little children.
Mother darling I am a very poor comforter.
If you could only be here I wish there
should be time for you to get here before
she was buried. But we do not know
what to do or how to act until they come.
I got your dear letter written the 15th
yesterday. With father's it was a great
comfort to me darling. I will answer it
soon. I also got one from Mother dear
boy he is not good. I get a letter nearly
(not quite) every day either from home
or from mother. I thought of you many
times yesterday, indeed, I do every day.
I did not go by the old house I wish
I had. I wish so much that you
were here. We could comfort each other.

God comfort you darling. Oh that we could
only feel that he does every thing for the
best, and whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth.
Oh mother dear I wish I was a good Christian.
My precious, sweet Mother Sunday Dec 24th
Uncle Mellen, Grandma, Aunt Ellen and
Lennie, got here last Friday evening.
They had quite a hard time getting down.
But they got here. Mother darling it
makes me feel so badly to have
to tell you this. Dear Auntie died
very sweetly last Sunday morning at ten
o'clock. She was very happy. Left her
love to every one and you and dear
father. She said you were both such
good Christians. She died of congestion
of the brain. But she did not suffer
at all. She left all the children
to dear Aunt Ellen and I am
sure she will be a good mother
to them. I have many many things
to tell you about her but I cannot
tell you now as Aunt Mary wants to
write a few lines and I have no room.
Good bye my darling. God comfort and
bless you and all of them. I have so many
things to tell you.

Sunday Dec 24th

Our Angel is gone. Poor Mother, Poor Ann, William
and us. I have no words of consolation we are all
stunned and overcome. On Thursday morning we received
a despatch stating "Belle died last Sunday we shall
be here to-morrow." It would have been a satisfaction
to you to have seen her sweet pure face which death
scarcely altered but we thought it would be impossible
and you must try to think of her in Heaven. Dear Belle
I hope you will spotless before we see you only
her childish going way to every body, her innocent
playfulness, her frequent smiles & tears. Write us as
she gave to study her character in this respect, her
short life was not more than a prolongation of heavenly
childhood, an unceasing obedience to the words of
our Savior: "Unless you become as little children ye shall
not enter into the Kingdom of Heaven." She thought
herself the best gifted of her family. Dear child -
now you are we find revealing her sweet nature -
Mother is calmer than I expected. The worst is
not yet. God comfort you in the prayer of Sister Mary -

Dec 29

Wm