



Horatio P. Van Cleve and
family papers.

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Mrs. Charlotte Hubbard
Ann Arbor
Michigan

Cincinnati July 7th 1840

My dear Mrs. Jones, very precious wife

According to custom I cannot
rest without a little conversation with my be-
lieved. I have spent a very pleasant day with
mother; this morning we called upon Mrs
Morgan & Mrs Mallock, who were very sociable,
and inquired particularly about you; we then
went to the Cincinnati office, where we found
a letter from you to Mary, which your mother
showed. Considering it a family letter, I was
glad to learn that you were all well and
that you had written for a letter tomorrow. I trust
a very long letter, telling me every thing of
yourself and children. You know how
much I am interested in you, in your
joys; your sorrows are my sorrows
and I know all. Thus far I have been
but a short note from you written at Mrs
Cook's. The clock has struck eleven and it is
time I should go to bed. So I must bid you good night
and may God bless my precious one, and my darling
children, and take care of you all for Christ's sake.
July 8th God bless you my love. I have just been trying
to thank him for his kindness in bringing me news
from my loved ones, and such good news; that you

Mrs. L. has not been to night. I have written to her. I have written to her. I have written to her.

were all well and doing well. Your letter, enclosing
from Sister, and dated July 4th 75th was received
morning and has made me very happy. I had
so much to hear from you and know how
were getting along with your large family of little ones
husband far from away. It was not kind in
him to leave you so, was it? We thought it for the best and
our Heavenly Father will protect us, watch over us, and
bless us. — I suppose by the time this reaches you, Mrs.
Oliver will be with Mr. Oliver. I am glad he has
taken a notion to go. It will better for him than
to remain in A.S. Has he done well at school?
I am very anxious to know. I fear he has not been very
studious. — You send a good one, but I know, dear
good girl, that she is, I know and so do you. —
Your mother has just read a letter from Sister
who writes that Mary Mary Oliver is doing very well. She
is doing very well. She is doing very well. —
I have been expected to do, and I have
heard you since morning, for I have been
much. I have been distressed to do, and I have
not send it before, for I did not see you. —
possibly get along, without it. — Mr. Taylor does not
owe me any wood, but he generally brings
me a load when he comes in town and ap-
pears disposed to deal fairly. I have paid him
for all he has brought so far, and we were square
when I left home. — With regard to the servants

I know you will do what is right and for the best,
but I do not like the thought of your being obliged to work
hard and take care of so many little ones all alone.
I think it is time you make a change in your domestic
for they have become independent and careless. —
With regard to the rumors concerning your health,
our very dear friends, let them go for what they are worth.
They will injure none but their authors. Your children
do not think you neglect them, and you and I know
you do not. Carelessly we can not let others
may say. I see no children better behaved, hands-
ome, or happier than our own, and I know I have
seen many children since I left home. I wish my
children were as good as you feel low spirits and annoyed by
a bad teacher, of those who sh^d be
to rest your head here, on this
I see, here, however cold the weather
would feel the beating of the heart.
— You ask me if I do not think you
I do, dear sister, but you must be careful
don't manage to make yourself sick
by working too much. — I took dinner with
you yesterday, and after dinner walked out
to see the sights. In the evening Mrs. Chap-
man (Mrs. Snelling) called and inquired particularly
about you. Mother & I called on her the evening
before and she being sick we could not see her.
Mrs. Foster called on your mother yesterday morning, and
looks very well.



[Faint, mostly illegible handwritten text, possibly an address or message, is visible across the page, including what appears to be "Cincinnati" and "Ohio".]

I know what you say of Miss Case, I should
think that she is one grand ———— you may
fill the blanks. She does not look for her back to
run before the wind. She must have taken by
hail. I mentioned in one of my letters that
Mr Woodward was here. He is quite nice, and
I think a good Christian. He appears to under-
stand his profession well and seems to take
pleasure in giving me all the information possible.
I regret much in my heart that there is a
possibility of his leaving this night. All his pri-
vate engagements may take him to Indiana.

You mentioned in the letter before this last
that Everett was calculating to start for Wash-
ington soon. I sincerely hope he may meet with
every desirable success. You surely the poor boy
will feel when he first reaches the great city.
How wonderful the feeling of being alone in such
a crowd. May God bless him.

I cannot imagine how my letter to you should
have miscarried. If any one thought there was
money in it he was mistaken.

I wish you to understand distinctly that I
am in very good spirits. A few things however
trouble me some. I cannot see my darling wife
and precious children every day, and then it
distresses me to think that you are short of food.
Have you been able to send any word to the Hiram
about the wheat? I hope you will soon get something
from that quarter.

I see the first by letter or calling on the way to Washington. I hope to see you soon. I am very glad to hear of your success. I am very glad to hear of your success. I am very glad to hear of your success.

Ann Arbor Saturday evening Sept 23^d 1853

My dear boy,

Your welcome letter enclosing the very unexpected but very precious \$5.00 was rec'd yesterday, and I did just as you told me to, "You say this is some of my hard earnings think of that and keep mother" and I kept with joy and gratitude to think I had such a noble-hearted unselfish and affectionate boy. Never did I handle any money with such peculiar feelings, I hardly know how to use it so that it will last the longest and do me the most good, indeed if I could afford it I would put it in a locked and near it next my heart that every throb might assure me that I had a boy able and willing to help himself and if need be support his mother. I shall probably however lay it out for wood for I really think it will take less wood bought with that money to keep me warm than any other, and by a little management I can make it go a good ways. I can have Mr Coburn take it and buy me five cords of wood, and I can pay him for the hauling by giving his daughter music lessons. I have kept myself in wood that way so far, and have just had a famous load brought for which I have paid in music. So you see music was even more charming than even the just thought of when he told about his "rending rocks splitting capes & pleasing savages" etc for in addition to all this it can keep little

children married and cook their dinners. This Miss
Cortam has just commenced music and the older
folks took it into their heads that I could teach her
better than any one else, so I contented thinking that
I could better spare two hours a week to her than to
~~spare~~ the money to buy wood. Now by appropriating
your present in this way, it will seem as if I paid
but a dollar a cord and to your money will be worth
(what it really seems) twice as much as any other \$5.00.
Mr Stone was here to-day, and he says there is a man
by the name of Millspar all the way from Penn Yan
who talked to him about our farm a year or more
ago. Mr Stone described it to him, and when he went
home he talked to Alongo about it, till he felt as if he
would like to buy it. Finally Alongo wrote a day or two
since to say that this same individual would like to move
right on to the farm now with his family, and buy it
if it was what it was represented to be. Mr Stone says
he is able to pay all right down in cash, and Uncle
Houston told Mr Stone to write to him that he
might come right on. Uncle also wrote to John Ken-
nouse telling him to leave the place as soon as possi-
ble. Now let me tell you what thanks father has got
for trying to befriended that poor lazy good-for-nothing
fellow. One man who went to look at Rosedale
would probably have bought it for he liked it very
much, but Kennouse who thought it was a pretty comfort-
able home for him, insisted that there was some
trouble about the title to the land. It is probably he

has injured the sale of it in this way more than
once and I think it is high time he was "making
tracks" for some other "diggings" don't you? Ask father if
the taxes have been paid on the York part of the farm.
Uncle says that it has been advertised and I cannot
find any receipt. I suppose Mr Howard paid the Pitts-
field part. Uncle said something about its going on for a
week, and if ^{Uncle} ~~Ken~~ thinks there is no mistake but that the
tax is really due I will raise it some way or other, next
week. Mr Clark will get the stone and Mr Stone will tell
me what it is worth. Perhaps I may get some provision
for winter say beef or butter or something of the sort.
So you see we shall almost literally be turning stones
into bread, which is certainly much more palatable and
nourishing. Mrs. Loomis took me out to Mr Stone's yester-
day. The "old folks" were not at home notwithstanding
the song says they are, but we found Oscar there and
he treated us to some delicious grapes, but as you and
father did not have any, I presume you think they were
poor. We rode from there to Mr Crittenden's, then we
took dinner and ate peaches to our hearts content
and then drove home. I was very tired and Sam's
face was pretty well scorched but the ride I think did
us good. I left three bags out at Mr Stone's, and Oscar
took them to our orchard and filled them with first
rate cooking apples. He brought them over to me to-day
and took some barrels down cellar and emptied the
bags for me. He is one of the cleverest boys in the north.
It is bet-time now, I will finish this sheet on Monday, Good
night my own dear boy. God bless you.

Sunday evening. My dear boy every one is in bed but Anna
and myself, and as I have read and talked to all my
children but you, I thought I would finish this holy day by
having a little conversation with you. I heard Mr Clark
preach an excellent sermon this morning on the Home Missi-
onary cause. He is so good a man and prays so much as if
he was talking to a friend whom he loved and was willing
to trust, that it really refreshes me to see and hear him.
I wished to-day that you and father were beside me.
I have just been reading a chapter in "Elijah the Tishbite"
to Anna, it is an excellent book and we generally close
the Sabbath by reading in it. I saw an excellent article
to-day called the "Talisman". I read it to Anna, and I
begged her, as I would urge you, my precious boy, to believe
and secure this Talisman from all evil. It informs
manuscript to the Savior, and the writer says, with great truth,
that this is the only talisman for the living. Cultivate my
dear boy the nearest and tenderest intimacy with the Savior
this is the whole of religion; believe me my child, it will be
a great wall about you, over which not one enemy can
throw a fatal arrow. And should you know how to seek
this state, I would say begin now to breathe out your heart
to him just as you would call to mind and love to
think of your dear mother and all the loved ones from whom
you are separated. Does one troublesome thought enter, lay it
upon your dearest Friend. Think of him as the best of friends
one who can keep you from all harm, and who has promi-
sed to be with you in death if you put your trust in him.
O my dear boy, look upon him while he is near seek him while
he may be found, harden not your heart, but give it up to him
now, and venture your all upon him. Temptation cannot
then overcome you. Satan will flee from you. You will be safe
in life and happy in death. Talk to father about it and ask
him to pray for you, that you may be owned and blessed
as one of his children. Good night darling God bless our dear mother
as one of his children. Good night darling God bless our dear mother

Ann Arbor Sept 26th Helicon 1853

My dear Husband,

I have just come up stairs after having eaten a hearty dinner and drank a stiff horn of beer to talk to you a very little. Your last two letters and Malcolm's enclosing \$5.00 were all rec'd in a bundle on Friday, and gave me much pleasure. They were more than usually comforting to me, for I had been a little low-spirited in thinking over the foolish and very cruel rumors about me and the children but I concluded after reading your letters that all Ann Arbor would neigh but very little against such a one as dictated them, and it seemed to me that although I might not know how to bring up children, perhaps some of the fault-finders might never have a better or more loving son than ours. And then when thinking too of what had been said of Anna, I wondered if any of those who have talked of her would ever have so pure and good a child as she. Ann was here the other day, and we got talking about these things, it seems we are principally indebted to Mrs Andrews for the reports that have given our friends there such a shock, and the representations she and others have made, have been such that your high-minded, upright and strictly moral, brother John has expressed his disapprobation of Mary's visiting Anna indeed has said she should not do so. Such conduct needs no comment. But did you ever

think that your own father would treat you thus on account of a foolish report circulated by a woman who is a notorious gossip, tale-tale and liar? But let it go, I would not condescend to an explanation with any of them, but I shall be very careful that none of my children ever go there lest the morals of their own immaculate offspring may become corrupted! — I hope we shall not have to live here a great while, but I shall not suffer myself to become impatient. I told Ann, that I thanked God that my children would not probably be brought up in A. S. But now I am afraid this will distress you dear, and am sorry I have written it, just set it down for what it is worth and pay no attention to it. I am very happy that is quite as much so as you could wish to have me when you are away from me. These things sometimes come over me like black clouds, but they soon clear away and leave the air purer and fairer by contrast. I shall harbor no malice, but shall give some of my acquaintances a good letting alone. — Houston says that Mr Burnet spoke to him of a road in contemplation between Slunkirk and some jumping-off place in Nipour, upon which he should like to have you and Henry employed. Have you seen Henry lately? I heard he intended to pay you a visit and then come home to see the folks. I shall be delighted to see Mr Woodard, and hope I shall make a good impression upon him. I was much gratified with what you said of Mork and I do not believe you will ever have reason to change your opinion of him. He is now in Kentucky I suppose, I do not know

whether he intends visiting Ohio or not. If he does you may perhaps meet him. I have not heard from Sam very lately, he was not very well a week or two ago. I hope I shall hear from him soon. Will you not be delighted if the farm is sold, don't forget to write to us about the taxes. I rec'd a bill for two years subscription (\$6.00) to the Presbyterian this morning. I thought you had paid last year. Never mind if old Rose Dale is turned into cash, these old debts will not trouble us any more, and we will see to it that they do not have any young ones. I must close now that Anna may have time and room to write. I shall write again soon. Good bye dearest

Your own true loving wife
L. C. Van Blum

My dear father,

I received your ^{letter} dear father, last Friday. You say it grieves you that you cannot let me take music lessons this winter, ~~don't~~ feel badly about it father, I would rather not take lessons in the winter, it is so cold to walk through the snow, and I think it will do as well to practise at home. We are very glad to know that Malcolm is doing so well, and when that money came that he sent I almost wished I was a boy that I might be doing something too. Mother and I are reading Alison's History of Europe. I suppose we shall finish it before you come home and then I hope we shall

have some thing to talk about, after we finish that we
are going to read Napoleon Bonaparte. Seymour is waiting
for me to give him a piece of bread so good. Bye dear father
Your own daughter
Nannie

P.S. Give my dear love to my dear brother and tell him
to write to me when he gets time
Your own Nannie

German town, Wednesday
Evening, before supper
Oct. 5th, 1853. Iowa Creek R.R. Office.

My dear wife,

I have been looking for a letter for a day or two past, and this evening expect it for certain. This letter should have been written last evening and sent off this morning, but I had not much time to spare and with all was pretty tired. All of which is very interesting news to you.

I have told you that German town contained a population of about 1500, and was surrounded by a fine farming country, and that the farmers were generally in very comfortable circumstances. They are, however, both villagers and farmers, far behind the same class of people in Michigan, in intelligence. One evidence of this we have in the book stores. I will not make the comparison with Ann Arbor, for the University creates an extra demand for books; but will compare it with what Ipsilanti was when we were there. I think that Sawson used to sell more than twenty times the amount of books, that are sold in this town. With the exception of School books, there are, I might almost say, no books sold here. So the only bookseller in the place tells me. The young men spend their leisure hours in a manly manner; the young ladies in visiting and gossip.

I suppose you think German town rather an uninteresting subject. Malcolm and I manage to spend our time quite pleasantly and I trust profitably. We are together most of our time, either on the line or in the office. Sometimes he assists me by reading notes for me to transcribe; but generally he studies. He is reviewing his arithmetic from the beginning; writing, and reading. In the latter he has not made much progress. I borrowed for him "Plutarch's Lives"; but I fear it does not suit his taste. I should like to know what would suit him, besides the hollow covered truth. He should be reading something useful.

Evening, after supper, I rec'd a letter from my dear wife, as I expected, this evening. I wish you could imagine the comfort your letters give me. I should like much to sit in your cheerful parlour, by a bright fire, to talk with you and the little ones, and hold the baby, while he was settling himself to sleep. I am obliged to content myself at present with taking care of Malcolm. Perhaps you would give a little to see his Vancouverian face. — This cough of Anne's, what does it mean? Is it the same that troubled her last winter. Perhaps her throat is affected like yours. Do you think Siggy's has entirely recovered from the succession of attacks she had last year?

Now that winter is approaching you must keep a keen look out upon the children. The weather with us is now very pleasant. I trust it is the same with you; What we call fine fall weather. We have had some frost, enough to injure the tobacco that was out. —

Mr Wellington had a letter from Mr Woodard this evening. He sent word to me that his time had been so much occupied that he had not been able to visit Ann Arbor, and that he would start for Hillsdale in the course of a few days. I fear you may not see him.

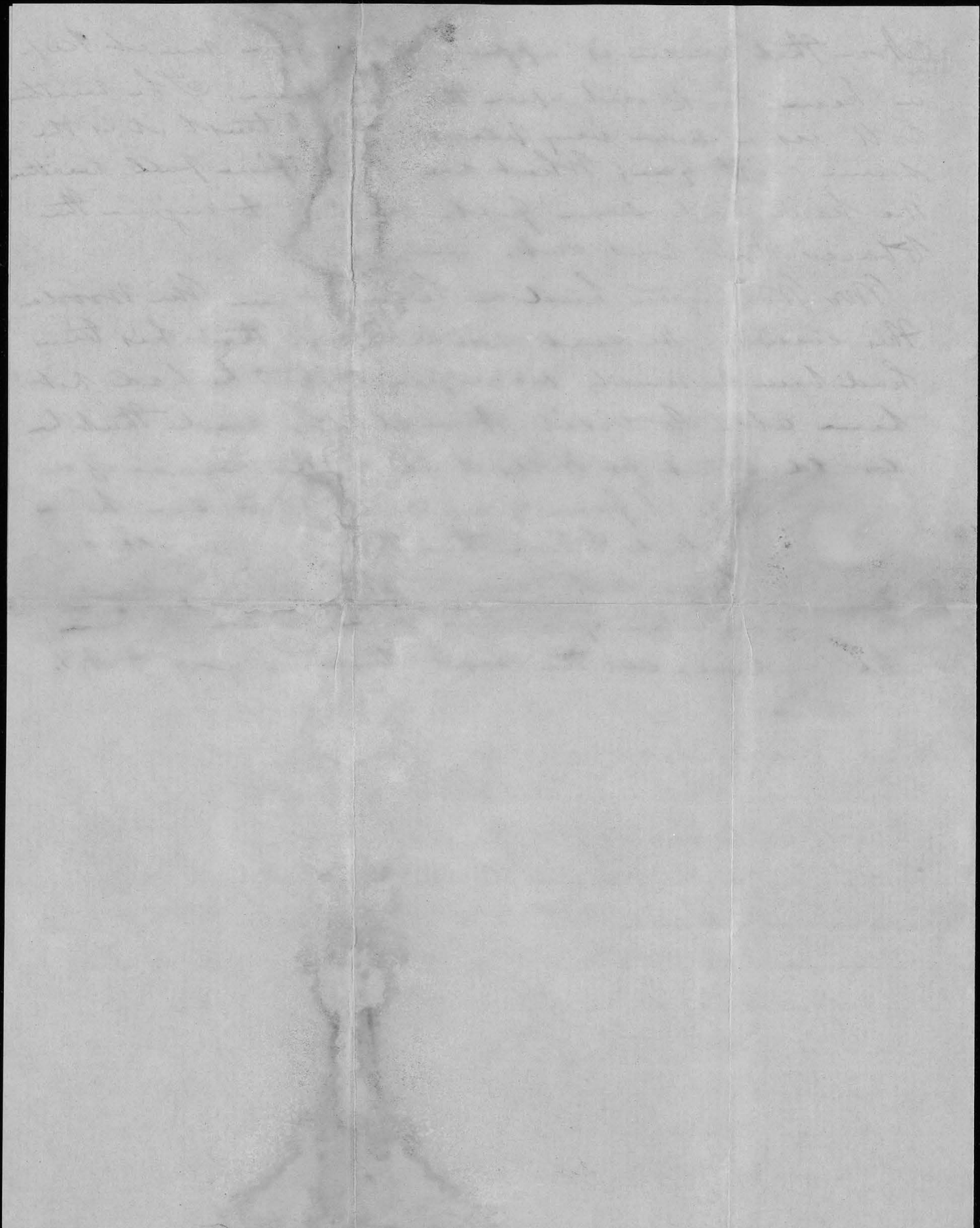
I am glad to hear that the boys are all doing well. I have not seen Mark. Remember me to Emily. When you see him, I wish him better success the next time he goes to N.Y.

Thursday morning, All well, Good bye in much haste for the mail.

I am your loving husband.

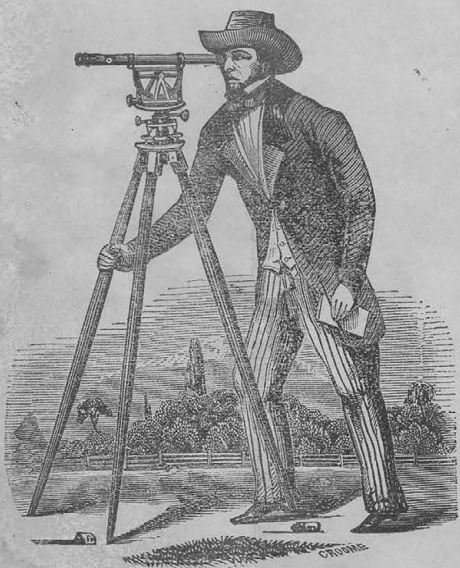
H. W. C.

P.S. Do not trouble yourself about what I said respecting Brandon. — I am satisfied all will be right & will save the very dear children.





Mrs Charlotte O. Van Cleve
Ann Arbor
Michigan



Genoa, N.Y., Rail Road office
Oct. 12th 1853 Wed. evening

My own dear wife

I rec^d yours of the 5th inst. this evening and you may be assured it gave me no small pleasure, for I had been looking for it since Saturday when a letter is delayed much beyond its regular time I begin to feel anxious. I know not why this was a week on the way. I thank God that you are all well.

I suppose the figure on this sheet has amused you and has called forth the remark: "Jack look here!" I thought it might gratify you & the children to see the likeness of the Engineer I am with. A friend of his took his daguerre-type, had it lithographed and gave him the plates.

I have been engaged in the office for several days drafting work that I like very well. The work must be finished this week, and I presume

I will have to assist, so that I will not do much in the field. Yesterday was Election Day in this State. The main question appeared to be liquor or no liquor. You are aware that an immense deal of whiskey is distilled in this Valley; consequently the liquor interest is very strong, and now that the "Maine Law" is agitated they look with suspicion on any Candidate for office that is known to be temperate. I heard it asserted as a fact that the name of a Candidate for office, who was opposed to the "Maine Law" and who was in the habit of drinking a little occasionally, was scratched from a ticket and that of another put on, who was known to get drunk. The latter was considered the more reliable man for the present emergency so much for politics. I took but little interest in the election. Spent the day in this office. The Whigs as the most sober party, I

have been beaten I believe. — I am sorry that Mark could not find me. If one takes the Cars at Cincinnati ~~for~~ on the Cincinnati, Hamilton & Dayton Road, and stops at Carlisle, an Omnibus will bring him to Germantown in a four mile drive. If he has not returned to New York, I may see him yet. — I fear I will not be able to see your mother before she goes to Michigan. I did hope that I would be able to accompany her, but it will be impossible for me to leave this month. Mr. Wallingford has no one to assist him but myself, and it would not answer for me to leave yet this year.

Rail Road Office Oct 13th Monday night.
My dear wife. I intended to have heard from this letter this morning, but was interrupted last evening & could not finish it. — I am exceedingly anxious to hear from you. I fear that you are really distressed for the want of funds and say nothing about it for fear of distressing me. I sent all I had, a small note, a short time since, and my purse has been perfectly flat ever since. I hope soon to be able to send some more. Perhaps not before the last of the month. You must let me know all about your troubles. Malcolm and I are getting along very well. We have nothing to trouble us seriously, save this separation from those we hold most dear on earth.

If there my love went by my side, my children
by my knee, then gladly would I spend my time.
The Lord has indeed been merciful to me thus
for keeping us in such good health and
sending such favorable news from home. When
ever I receive a letter I try to thank my God
for all his goodness. — You must keep up good
courage. Your Mother I trust will soon be with
you to comfort you. I intended to go to Cincinnati
before I came home if it is but to spend
one evening and come back the next morning.
I would have gone ere this but your letter
know how much my time is occupied.

Colds are somewhat prevalent. Malcolm, I think
is suffering from the effects of a cold. I have
had quite a bad one but have recovered
entirely. — I am sorry you have not seen
Mr Woodard. The last news we had from
him, he was in Hillsdale. His time has
been very much occupied, since he has been
in Michigan, with business that has called
him to different parts of the State. — To mor-
row, I will try to have Malcolm answer the
letter she rec^d from Anna last evening. I wished
him to answer it this afternoon but he did
not feel very well. Give much love and many
kisses to the dear children and may God bless
I keep you all. Your own devoted husband
A. P. Van Allen

Germanstown, P. B. Office,

Thursday, Oct. 27th 1853

My dear wife

I rec^d two precious letters from you on Monday. One of them had been delayed by the irregularity of the mails. — You had been to Flat Rock; had a pleasant visit; you had heard two excellent discourses from Mr. Haver. I knew you would love to hear him. Mr. Butler had a son, that might one day be a preacher. Sunday next you were expecting mother & Ellen in a day or two, and you may look for Malcolms and me about Thursday giving time. Some time next month Mrs. Grant Ganckel, the President of the Company, and Mr. Wellington the Chief Engineer, are going to Michigan. On their return Mr. Van Cleave Asst Engineer & Mr. Malcolm Van Cleave, Rodman, calculate to visit Michigan, God willing. — I am delighted with the accounts you give of our little Sam. I hope he may continue to improve. I suppose he is creeping all about, from your silence on the subject and from his wearing short dresses. I may be mistaken but that is my fancy. I'll see when I come home.

Mr. Woodard returned on Monday last, and the next day left for Saginaw, Indiana. He will not return here. I was glad that he was able to visit you, and to bring me good news of you all. You will know of my anxiety to

To see you all now that I have some
repairs to be made when I expect to get
home, and becoming doubly impatient. Mal-
colm can scarcely wait. He is very anxious to
see mother and sister & father.

Do you hear any more respecting the Am-
erican High School? I think Am. Arbor far behind
Gpsilanti in respect to schools. Could you not write
an article for the Watchman Whig on the subject.

I rec'd a number of the paper this evening, con-
taining Prof. Haver's address before the Ag. Soc.
I am glad you sent it for I cannot but read
with interest, any discourse from his pen. I
have not yet had time to read it, but calcu-
late to do so after I have finished this epistle.

How speak of the fires in the prairie & marshes
and in the woods. They must have been very
destructive. I have seen accounts of the fire
in the papers, and Mr. Woodard also spoke of it.
It has been raining here since yesterday morn-
ing, and I hope the rain has extended to Michigan
and has extinguished the fire.

I enclose \$12.00 hoping that it will help
you a little in household affairs. If you receive
it, I shall like you to let me know. On or about
the 3rd of this month I sent \$3.00, a small amount
but all that I had by me, which I fear you did
not receive for you said nothing about it. If
you have not paid the "Presbyterian" account, I

will send the money from here for it will be more
convenient for me to get Philadelphia funds. I
sincerely hope you will be able to sell the
funds; it will help us much.

I must now bid you good night. It is
getting late, and the streets are quiet.

This morning I rec'd an invitation to a ball
which will be at our boarding house on the eve-
ning of the 3rd of November. 'Tis so we go, You and I.

Give much love to all. Many kisses to my
dear children. Tell Anna, I shall like her to find
time to write to us. Tell Lizzie she must learn to write
letters to father. Ellen and Horace must not forget
uncle. Seymour must be a good boy and not run a-
way. Ed must not forget father. Sam be a good boy

May God bless and protect you all. Remember
us in your prayers. — It may be but a few
short weeks before we see each other. Let us
keep up good courage.

It is now raining quite hard, and it
bids fair to be a rainy day to-morrow. If so
I will not have any work to do out of doors
and may commence another letter to you.

In the paper you sent me was a notice of the
death of one of Mr. Royden's sons, in California.

You must remember me to Ocean Street. I
will try to write to Cliff soon. Again I say good
night, my darling wife.

Your husband, J. M. Lamb

I have just received your letter of the 10th inst. and am
 glad to hear that you are well. I am well at present.
 I have been thinking of writing to you for some time
 but have been so busy that I could not find time.
 I hope to hear from you again soon.

Cincinnati Jan 18th 1854

My own dear wife

As my letters of late have been written with a pencil, I thought it might be a treat to you to see one written with pen and ink. — Fizzie has just gone out with her Aunt Belle, to get a pair of shoes, and consequently does not compel me to hold her hand while she writes to you all. Dear child — she is a great comfort to me. When I do not see her about, I miss her much. She sleeps with me and is a dear, sweet little dear. I wish I could tell that you have so many around you you would miss her little when she is gone. We expect to leave on Friday for the Sandy, where I may remain about a week. — Mr. Shellen expects some boats with coal this evening, the river being up. I hope this will raise mother's spirits.

I rec^d a letter from you yesterday. Was glad to learn that you were all getting along very well; that you had discharged M. & S. and had engaged two girls who suited you better. I hope these will continue to please you.

The word you sent about Malcolm that he was doing well, was a great comfort

I trust he will never let you send any more
but what will be gratifying.

I hope my precious Fannie will continue
to read her history. Wherever I go, I find
those who are well acquainted with History
Ancient & Modern, appear best in Society. For
many I skim over a novel occasionally for
recreation, but history gives more substan-
tial pleasure. In novels you may be inter-
ested; in history, interested and instructed.
I wish Malcolm would read Rollin
for my book. If he does not like the
Compendium, let him hurry over that
till he comes to the life of Alexander and
his successors. — I should like to see
Benjamin and Chick playing with their
slabs, and little Ed building churches
and making my precious Sam to sleep.

Fannie forgets none of. She frequently
talks of you all, but does not appear to
be homesick. I do not know how either
she or I will stand it when I leave her.
Probably she will stand it the better of
the two. She has a happy disposition.

Our kind love to Malcolm. He must
watch the hay, and be sure to have some
more brought in before it is gone. There is
some oats of ours at Mr. Howards that might

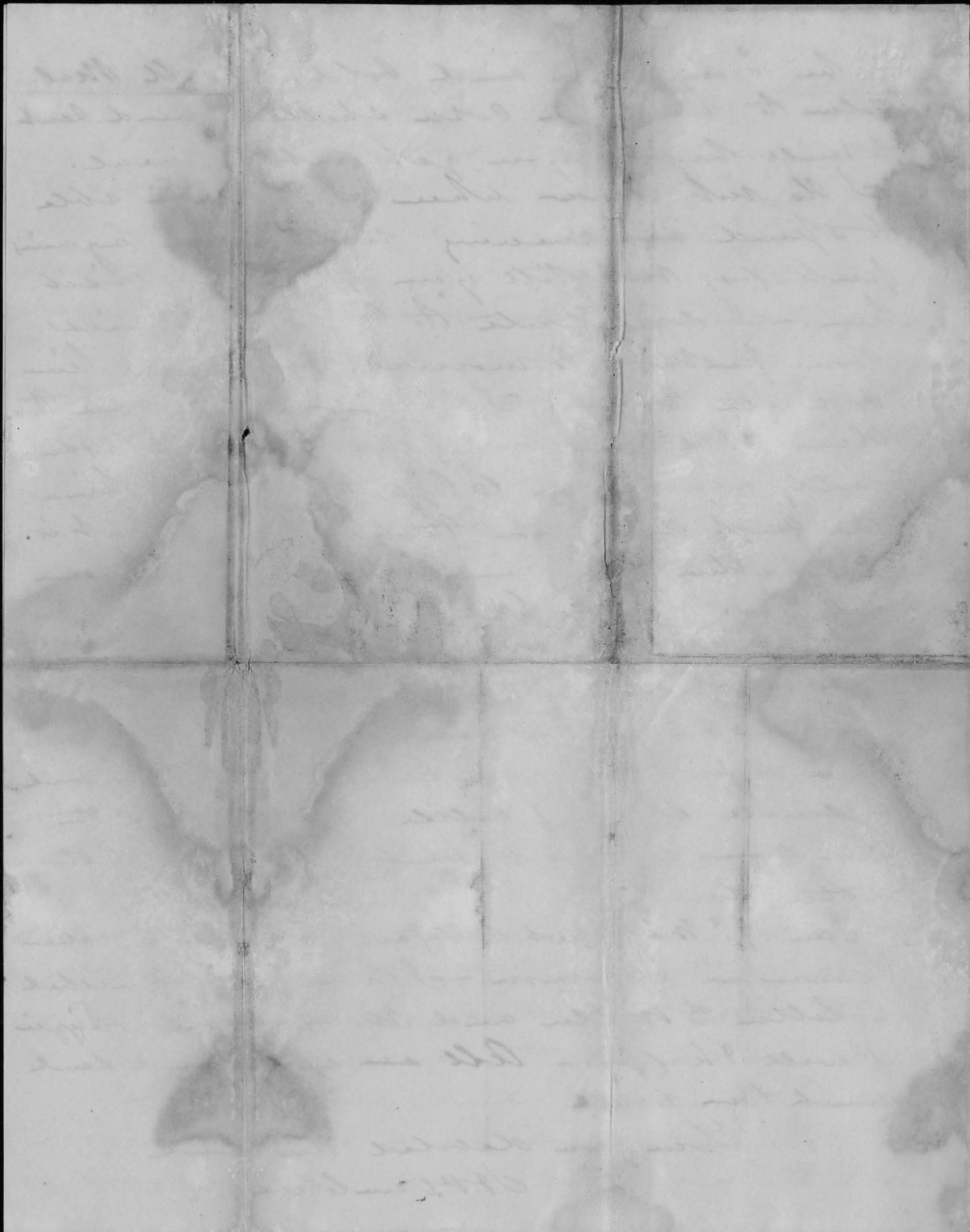
be brought in and sold. Tell Mal-
colm to have the corn shelled and sent
to mill before you get out of meal.

I do not know when I will be able
to spend an evening with you again,
perhaps, not till you make a visit
here. — I will write to Willie Davis
soon, probably to-morrow, and get him
to write to you. I should love much to see the
dear children. — I will most assu-
redly remember Cliff, and get him
the first subscription that offers. What is
his father doing in Ann Arbor? I fear
for him. What has become of the Maria
Davis. Will it be safe to send her

The suspension bridge over the river between
Newport & Conway was full on Monday afternoon.
Three or four men were on it at the time and
a small drove of cattle. One or two of the
men were somewhat hurt and one of the
cattle drowned.

Jan. 19th We expect to start for Peach Orchard
to-morrow afternoon. — I have just finished
a letter to Willie and Mary Davis. Fannie
is well & happy. — All are well and send
much love to all.

Your own devoted husband
J. P. Newbloom





Mrs Charlotte D. Deane
Ann Arbor
Michigan

Tuesday June 20th 1854.

"Portage"

Houghton County
Lake Superior
Michigan "

My dear wife

I wrote to you yesterday morning by the mail going to Eagle River, and again in the afternoon, expecting to send it by a steamboat that is at the entrance of the Lake about 14 miles from here, but Mr Palmer to whom I gave it to carry to the boat, accidentally left it on his table, and it is here still. Mr Palmer ~~is~~ ^{is} the Regent of the University, is Clerk here for some 8 or 9 miles located in this immediate neighborhood, and his family reside at Powers, in Lower Michigan. We heard yesterday that his wife was aboard of the Steamboat that had just come up and went down on a propeller from this place to meet her. I have a faint hope that, I may get a letter by this boat, when the propeller comes back, but it is but a faint hope. I have been traveling about so much, and through a region remote from regular mail routes that I have not yet been able to intercept any of your letters. Those that have been sent to Ontonagon, and ~~to~~ ^{at} Rockland will have to be forwarded to me here and by the time they reach here I may be some where else. Still this we expect will be our general headquarters for some time and you may continue to direct to me here until otherwise notified. We ex-

just to leave in the course of a day or two, and may be
absent some weeks but will write as far off, but
that we will be able to send occasionally for letters.
I just suppose it was all forest between Deer River
and Flat Rock, and that you had to send some
one there on foot for your letters. Deer River may not
be quite so bad for mail carriers may have a
chance to ride in a boat, occasionally, part of the way.
7 1/2 P.M. The propeller has just come up from the Steamboat
which still lies at the entry (the entrance of the Lake) and
is going back to her this evening so I will have a chance
to send by her. — I have no news of any par-
ticular interest to communicate, farther than what
I have told you in my last letter. We have got
along as comfortably as I have been expected, and
without any accident thus far. I expect we will
^{get along} still better hereafter, for we have had rather a
forced march thus far. We have traveled through
the woods, probably 150 miles, most of the time follow-
ing section lines, which you know are indicated by
marks on trees. We encamped generally where
night found us near some of the little streams
in which the country abounds.

Look on the Map of Michigan, or rather of the
Lake Superior Country; near the Western end, or
Fond du Lac, you will find on the Madeline Island, one
of the Apostle Islands, La Pointe, an old trading post
of the Fur Company. Then we landed from the Steamer
boat; from La Pointe we coasted eastward in a ketch

to the Mouth of Black River, visiting on our way
the mouth of the Menistral River. From Black
River we have come by land, passing by the foot
of North end of Agassiz Lake, and traveling in
a zigzag course, to Portage Lake. We are about
eight miles from the North end of the Lake.
We have passed a great many mines, some of
which have been abandoned, some have a pros-
pect of doing well. There are nine mines
started in this vicinity, and probably within a
mile & a half of this point where I am writing.
If the land were cleared of its timber they
would be within sight of each other. Some
are across the Lake, which is not over 100 rods
wide here. I believe every person here thinks he
is making a fortune, or that he has already made.
I have no doubt that some are rich, who a few
years since were poor, and if the mines are properly
managed they will no doubt do well. It costs
a considerable outlay of money to open a mine, &
frequently the stockholders become faint hearted
before a work has been fairly tested, and abandon
it. That is one reason we see so many aban-
doned works. There is an immense quantity of
copper in the bowels of this Country and it will
require an immense deal of labor to make
the rocks disgorge their treasure. Many for-
tunes will be made and lost in the mean-
time by speculators in copper stock.

I enclose an order for fifty dollars, on Mr Geo. L. Fark, Land Agent of Canal of St Mary Canal Co. His office is in Detroit over the State Bank. - Dr Douglass says that no doubt Henry Welles will cash it for you. I would have sent ~~an order~~ for \$75. but ~~needed~~ ^{needed} to pay the ~~debt~~ ^{debt} what I borrowed of him in Ann Arbor. If my life is spared and nothing hinders, I hope to send you \$75. in another month. If you can pay anything in rent given this I would be glad. I have no fear but that you will do the best you can.

I have not subscribed anything towards Mr Cutler's salary this year, and have never seen the subscription paper. You need do nothing about it till I return or till you hear from me on the subject. I do not know what I will be able to subscribe. I have heretofore subscribed beyond my ability.

Give much love to my dear children; Malcolm & Anna, Siggie & Sigman, Eddie & Laura, not forgetting Ellen & Chick. - If you can possibly spare it I wish you would give Henry money to pay the tax on my ^{the land} ~~house~~ land, it may amount to \$12. or \$15. and will be sold in July if ^{near the year} tax is not paid.

Love ever loving husband J. P. Van Cleave
P.S. No letters by this boat. I am well & in good spirits

5th page

Sunday June 25th 1854

Eagle River 12 o'clock M.

My dear wife, — We intercepted the mail
from Portage Lake
here, and in it was your letter of June 19th
the first that I have rec^d from you, and you
may rest assured it did my heart good to be
given, notwithstanding your text was, a horrid
misrepresentation. I sincerely think I can
listen to objective sermons along the Lake
Shore where the waves, in a calm day,
are gently rolling upon the sandy beach,
or in a storm, dashing against the rocks,
that lead me more to adore the Majesty
and goodness of my Maker, than many
metaphysical discourses I have heard in
churches. I love to look upon this vast
Sea and think of Him who made it,
and who directs the winds & storms; and
upon the rocks that bind it to its proper
bounds, and feel that naught but the power
of the Almighty could have uplifted them
from the beds where He first formed them
and placed them in the positions they now
occupy. I see His hand in the Sea; I see

ironly rock bound shores; I see it
in the rivers whose waters dash over
their rocky beds, as they hurry on their
way, to mingle with those of the ocean;
I see it in the hills and valleys; in
the dense forests that cover its surface
and in the flowers that we tread beneath
our feet; I see it in all the works of
Creation. I love my God, who made all
these things for man, and I love to ad-
mire his handiwork. I love my Sa-
vour, who pitied me, as poor rebel, &
died that I might live. God grant
that I may ever honour, love & serve Him.

Your letter of today brings the first
news I have had of my dear children
since I left home, and you may rea-
dily suppose it gave me no small joy
to learn that they were all well, and good
children. I do try to pray for you all
that you may have wisdom & grace
given you to bring them up in the fear of
the Lord; that they may forsake all man-
ner of sin, and walk in the ways of Righte-

that you all may be preserved in health
and kept from harm; and that all of
us may be permitted to meet again in
health and happiness.

The Sabbath is remembered here;
labor in general ceases, although some
teams were hauling Copper to the dock
for a short time this morning, to be in re-
diness for the Steamboat which knows no
Sabbath and is expected this afternoon.
There is no preaching here, but there is
at the bluff nine miles distant, too far
for me to walk. Strangers and citizens
are loitering about, alone or in squads
of two or three, on the docks and on the
porches of the hotels; The women & chil-
dren are occasionally seen dressed
in their Sunday best; and all are
quiet, peaceable and orderly. You
are forcibly reminded that it is the
Sabbath and that you are among
people who have been brought up in
Christian lands. Let you hear no
church bell. Occasionally, however, there

is preaching here, at a private house.
This is destined to be an important
point on the Lake, probably more cop-
per is now shipped here than at any
other point at present. An immense
quantity is now lying at the landing
in masses weighing from 500 lbs to
5 tons, besides a large amount in
barrels. A great amount of business
must attract a great many people,
where there are souls to be saved. The Gos-
pel sh^d be preached, even if it may be
in our own land, and not upon the
dear Coral Straits. ^{Many of} The Citizens of this
place, and of the ~~adjacent~~ ^{adjacent} ~~adjacent~~ ^{adjacent} spending the Sab-
bath, would not doubt be glad of an
opportunity to attend divine service on the
Sabbath, and its influence here would
be good. I am not at all opposed to
our foreign missions, or the Society,
and greatly in favor of them, for the com-
mand is, Go into all the world and preach
the Gospel. — I must take another
sheet and say a few words to my dear
children. Kiss them all for me &
may God bless and preserve you my dar-
ling wife, and support you under all trials
and difficulties. Your own loving husband
H. Van Cleave.

In camp in the woods 2 miles
west of Lac La Belle, L.S.
Wednesday P.M. - Aug 9th 1854

My dear daughter Anna,

On Monday morning Dr Doug-
lass, two of our men, and I went up
a high hill north of Lac La Belle
from which we had a fine view of
the surrounding country, and of a
part of Lake Superior. When near
the top I plucked some beautiful
blue bells, that I intended to put in a
book and carry home to my darling daugh-
ter. I carried them in my hand, with
a small branch of hemlock that had
red berries on it that I also intended to
take home, but the sand flies were very
troublesome, & I could sometimes brush them
from my face with my precious flowers.
On my way down the hill looking for my
flowers & berries I found nothing but stems.
I expect many opportunities to collect
more, but not from that hill. I have ta-
ken about a page to give you the history
of these very common blue bells & hemlock

And please you my dear child, be sure to carry them to mother
sister & brother.

bushes, but my object was to show my
darling children that their father ne-
ver forgot them. — I picked a few whor-
tle berries on this hill, and saw acorns on
a scrub oak; the first acorns I have seen
in this country. Oak trees are not very com-
mon, we have seen but few. About old
clearings, raspberries are very abundant,
and thimble berries, which are larger
than raspberries and resemble them
slightly, both in appearance & taste. I
do not like them so well. Some prefer them
I would call them, mock raspberries. The
whortle berries are very large and fine
about I have never ~~seen~~ ^{gathered} ~~any~~ ^{any} ~~of~~ ^{of}
them, when I had ~~been~~ ^{been} ~~to~~ ^{to} ~~gather~~ ^{gather}
them. When at Lac La Poudre (which we
then has told you, means the Beautiful
Lakes) we frequently had at our meals
fine masses of red raspberries and su-
gar. Our men gathered a great many.

This is a wild country. We meet no-
body excepting near the Copper mines, and
occasionally an Indian. When encamped
in the woods we see none but our own party.



Mrs Charlotte D. Van Cleve

Ann Arbor

Michigan

To Eddie McVane } Aug 14th 1884 Monday night
In Camp in the woods a great
ways from home, and in bed.
My dear little son Eddie

I am in bed, but am not
sleepy, so I thought I wd write a little
letter to my sweet little boy. It has

~~been raining ever since I came here.~~

I could not go out to work this after-

noon, so I spent most of the time drawing

maps, and writing notes of the work I

have been doing lately. After I finished

writing I recollected there was a little

hole in the toe of one of my socks, and

as mother was not here to mend it, I

took a darning needle and some yarn

and darned it. But I did it on the

outside and when it was finished,

it looked very odd, and the boys laugh-

ed and said my wife wd scold me, so

you must not tell mother. Would you not

laugh to see father darning his stockings.

Sometimes I wash them and my shirts

and drawers, handkerchiefs & towels.

I do it very scientifically, and expeditiously.

Tell Samson he must be very busy.

I put them in some hot water, then put a little soap on them, then squeeze them some, and then wring them out; Then I put them in some clean water, wring them again and hang them up to dry. I do not iron them. I think you would all laugh to see father wash his clothes.

Aug 15th Tuesday night. Here I am in bed again, and writing to my little Eddie. Now I am going to tell you a little story, and you must pay attention. I went out in the woods this morning after breakfast, to look at some land and when I came back at dinner time I found that two of our men that went out when I did had not got back. So we waited some time & as they did not come we thought they could not find our camp, for it is in the thick woods and we cannot see it much farther than across our garden. So we shouted as loud as we could hoping they would hear us. After a while it became cloudy & began to rain, and the wind blew and made a great deal of noise in the tops of the trees. But every little while we would go out of our tents and shout and strike on a tree with an axe so that these men might find us. About $\frac{1}{2}$ past 4 o'clock they came home and told us that their compass (a little thing that guides them) was broken, and that they had been walking for three or four hours to find us. We were very glad when we saw them, and they were glad, for they were tired & hungry & wet. — Good night my God bless you my dear child. Your ever dear father.



J. H. Lincoln Esq

For Mrs. C. O. Van Cleave

Cincinnati

Ohio

Remember to tell the women how... I am now devoted to my band, M. J. & C. C. C.

Ann Arbor Tuesday Afternoon Oct 31st 1854

My own dear wife

If you look for news in this letter you may be disappointed as you will find from the following review of the Market: Pork is heavy; beef is firm; butter scarce; candles light; feathers ditto; flour is up; whiskey has an upward tendency; news is flat. ^{and} There you have it, news is flat. We are entirely run out. The great influx of strangers on the day of grand Mass meetings, according to the Free Press 3000, according to a most liberal calculation, not over 500, two thirds at least anti-administration men, consumed all the news scarcely leaving a fragment. This leaving me in a sad dilemma. I am altogether too modest to be the hero of my own story, consequently cannot write about myself. When I tell you that the children are well, happy, and noisy, that subject is exhausted and as I, at the best dull, feel more dull than usual this afternoon, there is fair prospect that this sheet will prove a blank. — The children are just returning from school and I hear Siggie's sweet voice, as merry as a lark. Would you not like to hear it? Ellen & Horace are with her, both well & happy. Eddie & Siggie Vanfatta appear to be having a cozy chat on the steps in front of Mr. D's. Seymour is off with some of his friends I presume; Malcolm is assisting Mr. McCracken and the baby, that is to say Samuel, is singing in the dining room. Mr. Thomson called to day. He is down on business, in Court, & will return to the fisheries in a day or two. He looks very well. Doesticks has visited the Spirit rappers, and has reported to the Advertiser. If I can get a paper I will send it. Ed may possibly send it. I read it in Mr. Weller's store. Ed sent you a paper a few days since. Did you receive it? I suppose it was one that contained Doesticks account of the three preachers. — This is one of the days that we sometimes have:

cloudy, sometimes it drizzles; sometimes it stops; sometimes it appears to be undecided; and it bids fair to be cold to-morrow. — P.S. Miss Sarned called this afternoon and practiced. I was sitting alone in the parlor, when she came in, reading one of my red covered books, of course her practicing was an interruption, she may come as often as she pleases. I think I will have no difficulty in finding an offset for the Rail Road Coach widower. Just look over this way, and see how matters stand; Wife gone, children at school, girls in the kitchen, husband in the parlor supposed to be reading in a red covered book, young lady in the same parlor supposed to be playing on a piano, may be husband about read very attentively, may be young lady about practice very industriously. Come now Honor bright, does not the paper begin to look green? There's the tea bell, good afternoon.

Evening. Children all in bed, no Dutch visitors in the kitchen, ego feels very quiet. Expect for a letter from my darling, but it did not come, will be along tomorrow I think. I will learn whether she reached Cincinnati safely. You must tell Anna I am expecting a letter from her.

You and Anna are becoming such independent travelers, that I expect it will be difficult to keep you here hereafter. Some morning, at breakfast, you will remark that you would like to see your friends in Cincinnati or Kentucky; in the afternoon, you will off. This independence is a wonderful institution. Speaking of independence, I wish you would take a piece of Peach Orchard coal, about the size of Mr Mellen's fist, out of Mr Sinsburg's Coal Scuttle, wrap it in a piece of paper and put it in your trunk, for a specimen. — Has Mr Mellen opened the mine below Peach Orchard? If so, what are its prospects? Has there been a coal boat run in the Sandy. If not, does mother read the papers for rain? We sure you attend to my

Commission I answered my questions.

I called at St Andrews for a moment on Saturday; saw his wife who showed me her baby, a fine child, and I kissed it for you; forgot to kiss the mother for myself. I intend to call on the baby again soon. You wished me to make some other calls which in all probability will be deferred till your return. I take no pleasure in visiting unless you are with me. We will make the tour of the village when you come home. Mr & Mrs Donforth are expected tomorrow. I will have to call there, kiss her, & charge it to his account. There is nothing like keeping accounts straight.

I have just been up stairs to see the children. They are all comfortable. Good night. God bless you my loved ones. Miss Harriet bid me, father loves her dearly.

Wednesday Nov. 1st Your letter did not come this morning but do not be discouraged, I expect it will be along this evening. We are all well and flourishing.

I learned this morning from James Cook that Roscoe Stone died yesterday at Kalamazoo. His parents were with him. I deeply sympathize with the aged couple. They have lost a good son, and one, on whom, no doubt they had placed high hopes. His remains will be brought here today on the cars, and taken home. He is to be buried tomorrow. James & I calculate to attend the funeral. In the midst of life we are in death. But a short time since Roscoe's prospect for a long life was as good as that of any one he has left behind. I trust he was prepared for the messenger that was sent for him.

Next Tuesday is the day you set for returning home. We are all ready to give you a hearty welcome, for me, I can speak for myself, miss you much, very much. If you wish however to spend a few more days let me know in your next letter, that we may calculate on it.

I not be disappointed. You need not hurry yourself on account of the Children, they are all doing well.

I calculate to go to Ipswich in the course of two or three days to see if I cannot sell the Mortgage I hold against Black Rogers. If I succeed, I will be able to pay up, and then we will get along quite comfortably. Do you not think so? — Malcolm has just come in and appears to feel very sad on account of the death of Oscar; I wish it would lead him to think seriously of the uncertainty of life and the importance of always living in preparation for death.

I rec'd a letter this morning from G. G. Wellington, containing a paragraph respecting the Cincinnati & Massena R.R. It appears that they have not given it up. Did you hear anything about it in Dayton?

Local news. It has cleared off finely, Washwomen's prospects for drying clothes, very good. Miss Busch is married. Charles Sawyer is quite low with the scarlet fever. Malcolm went out on Saturday with Fred Cordelius and each got over two bushels of walnuts after they were shucked. I was obliged to punish Eddie yesterday for willful disobedience. He boasted that I did not punish him on Monday for a similar offence. Malcolm is in great wrath; he has heard that some boy insulted Emily Wahl, in the street a few evenings since; he intends to tell George, and if he does not punish the boy, Malcolm will do it; for says he, Emily is such a pure minded girl. We had some fine lettuce for dinner, and some magnificent soup, all the table wanted was your presence. I did not taste the lettuce, but it looked nice & I thought of you, I remembered that you were fond of it. — I intended to have devoted a part of this sheet to my darling daughter, but I find it is used up. Give her a great deal of love and many kisses & tell her this letter is intended for both.

[Nov. 1, 1854]

Am Arbor, Wednesday Afternoon Nov. 6th 1864

My own dear wife

4.2 I have just mailed a letter to you, and also a Detroit Adventure containing an account of Doesticks visit to the Spirit Rapper, thinking you might wish to see it. I hope you will be particular in keeping the journal as you proposed before you left. I am expecting quite a treat from it. This is the last letter you may expect from me while you are in Cincinnati, unless I learn soon that you calculate to stay longer than you anticipated; that being the case I will write again, (that is, if you write soon that you intend to remain there longer.) Have I made myself intelligible? In looking over the sentence, it does not appear to be English. Remember the journal, that is all that I set down, just now to write about.

Evening. On my return from prayer meeting I found
~~another from you. You have self, written on Sunday eve-~~
ning, postmarked Oct 31st that Malcolm had brought
from the office. It is needless to tell you how much it
delighted me to hear of your safe arrival at Cincinnati
and at Mr Lincoln's house and Mary's tea table. I judge
from your letter that you are enjoying your visit much
and that you will have an interesting account to give
us, on your return, of our friends both at Cincinnati &
Dayton. Until I rec^d your letter, I had taken great
comfort in the assurance that you would find at Cin-
cinnati a letter from me, on your arrival. Now I am
disappointed. I took a letter for you to the office on Wed-
nesday, and it sh^d have reached Cincinnati on Friday
certainly, I trust it has reached there in this.

With regard to selecting a route to return, whether by way of Detroit or Toledo, you must use your own judgment.

[Nov. 1, 1854]

You I feel to children will well.
your movements. His remaining were for

After writing me to tell Anna that she wants the Perry & Ida. (two children) Helen, that is Helen.

trusting in your Heavenly Father who has taken care of you thus far. If the weather is pleasant you might find the Lake route the more agreeable; If stormy, the land. As I was going to pray a meeting this evening, it looked very squally overhead and the wind was high; I was thinking of my precious one, and rejoicing that she was not on the Lake. It is however often stormy on the Lake when we do not feel it on the land, more especially if we are somewhat in the interior.

I am glad to learn that Anna has made a favorable impression on her friends, both at Dayton & Cincinnati. I trust she will spend her time very pleasantly and I hope profitably. She is a darling child and is very dear to her father. If she studies hard and behaves herself well for you or for me, I will give her a reward quite a respectable woman, and no doubt will then begin to think it time to be getting her cap for the young gentlemen. You must not fail to give her Mrs. Cutler's advice. If I remember right that was for a young lady to wait till she was thirty five. If I were a young man looking for a wife I wd beg to be delivered from all such.

I think I told you I rec^d the letter from M^r. I was much pleased with it and will let you read it when you come home, if you promise to be good.

If Mr. Wellington sh^d call on you, you may learn something respecting Engineering prospects on the Cin & Mac. R.R. I wrote to him.

If Mr. Mellen could send me a sketch of his land with a description of the hills &c. I could draw the topography

without seeing it. If accuracy is required however, in the topography it would require a very accurate description & that may be just what he wants to get. I wd be glad to do it, whenever he may wish it, if I am not otherwise engaged. Many of the Maps I drew last summer, were from description, and rough sketches; some without any sketch, many from my own observation.

It is quite cold to night, the first cold weather we have had since you have left home I believe. There will, no doubt be ice in the tubs in the morning. I let the water out of the pump, fearing that it might freeze.

Will you hear any company home? I cannot bear the idea of your traveling alone. Would it not be best for you to stop a day at Dayton, you might find company from there if not to the city, to Sandusky or Toledo. I must bid you good night and say a few words to my little girl. May God bless you & take care of you at all times my darling wife, ever your loving husband. N.P. Van Cleave P.S. The children are all well & send love.

To my precious daughter Anna.

Father loves you much, thinks of you a great deal & tries to pray for you daily, and often during the day. Remember your God my child and do not neglect the study of his holy word. In all your cares & troubles look to him guidance & aid. — Mother will leave you soon for a short time, but you will not be less spirited will you? Be cheerful at all times, and keep up good courage. Recollect when we visit our friends it is for our mutual happiness; but should you be homesick it will be for your mutual

Misery. What I am wasting time, pen, ink, & paper on this subject for I know you intend to be as brave as Julius Caesar, God bless you. You will contribute all that is in your power to the happiness of Uncle Lincoln & Aunt Mary, and all about you. I know you will so what is this use of telling you. Mother will bring me a very good account of you, I know she will. When you want to come home let me know and I will come after you.

The children all send their love to you. Seymour says to me 'Send my love to mother that nobody gets above me in spelling, I had to go down first on Monday morning and got up head the first word. Poor neglected boy he is going to be the student among the boys.'

I am glad to learn that you had a pleasant visit in Dayton, you have brought very interesting letters from them and you may find it pleasant to give their acquaintance. I think it would be well for you to take lessons in French of the lady Aunt Mary proposes, but it cost me nothing to teach Aunt Mary French and I am unwilling it sh^d cost Aunt Mary anything to teach you. As you intend to study French you had better give up your German till you return to us.

I will try to write to you frequently my dear child; and will think of you much often than I write. We will always remember you at family worship, and always in my prayers, I will offer a petition for my dear child. May God bless & keep you. Kiss mother three for me. Give my love to Aunt Mary, Remember her to all.

Your ever loving & devoted Father,
H. P. Van Cleave



S. D. Lincoln
For Mrs C. C. Van Cleve

Cincinnati
Ohio

Am Arbor Nov. 8th 1884

My own precious wife

This evening's mail brought another sweet letter from my darling; it tells me that you & my dear child are well and enjoying yourselves much. It found as all well. Malcolm is sitting by me reading some papers that Mont sent him; Siggie and Ellen are at a party given by the Sutherland children; Horace, Seymour, Edolie & Sam are in bed, sound asleep. They are all good children, behave well, give me no trouble, and I am never ashamed of them. Mrs Cook sent home the little boys' pants last week, and they look very pretty and comfortable. I am very careful to have them warmly clad, as the weather is now quite cold. Thus far they have been free from colds; and Sam is quite well, has got over his trouble. Malcolm looks very well, is regaining his strength rapidly, and I hope is attending faithfully to his studies. I trust you will find that he improves daily.

You speak of Anna's attending Mr Clark's Church. As she can have a regular seat there and some one to accompany her, I think it would be well. I cannot bear the idea of her going through the streets alone; at the same time, if a good opportunity offers I should like to have her go occasionally to our old church. I should like much to have you attend there once before you return, and tell me what you think of it. Try to go next Sabbath.

I came from prayer meeting this evening with Mrs Weller. She told me that Ed expected to leave next Friday. I have seen him almost every day at the store but he has always been very busy, and as he has not called here in the evening I have had but little oppor-

tingly to converse with him, and he has not told me of his intended emigration. Although I see him but little I shall miss him very much. For I never was any, excepting at the two hard war states.

Lizzie & Ellen have just returned from the party, in good spirits, as they spent the evening very pleasantly. Lizzie sends her love to you and Fannie, and says she wants to see you both very much. I have combed her hair, kissed her good night, and sent her to bed. She looked very sweet.

When you return Malcolm will have quite a story to tell you of his affair with the boy that insulted Emily. Malcolm told John Sinclair; John told his mother; Mrs. T. came to see Malcolm. &c. &c. Wait patiently & you will learn all from Malcolm better than I can tell it. He has named his enemy. Whisk, after the heap, of Springfield memory.

I am well pleased with your plan about returning home; that is, leaving Cincinnati on Monday and spending a day or two at Dayton, although by that arrangement we shall not see you as soon as we had hoped to. You will find it much less fatiguing than it would be to ride through to Toledo, ^{and back} in one day; and at Dayton you may find some company. We will try to keep up good coverage till you come. To-morrow I will try to find to learn something more respecting Ed's movements. I must now go and see how the children are faring up stairs, whether they are tucked up comfortably for the night and sleeping sweetly; so good night. May God bless & keep you my darling wife & my precious child. We remember you, & wish you to remember us always in your prayers.

Nov. 9.th Ed told me this morning that he expected to leave to-morrow. He spoke of writing to you from Cleveland, on Saturday. I told him to direct to the care of J. B. Phillips Dayton.

It is supposed that Wingham will have not less than 5000 majority over Barry for governor. It is not certain that Von has lost his election. We think Anti-Slavery has made a pretty clean sweep, throughout the State.

Early this Sam waked up just before I went to bed and kept me awake till near three o'clock. He is some thing of a scamp. I think; What say you?

Mr & Mrs D. returned a few days since. I have not been over to claim my kiss. I believe I must call over this evening, and also call on Mrs Andrews. Miss Earned

Alas (a lass) has not been here for some days. — Speaking of grey hair, I would be delighted to see them. I love so dearly; but I must protest against your calling that sweet face, wrinkled. Not yet, Not yet.

Malcolm will be on the look out for the Elk horns.

A few words respecting your route home. If the weather should be favorable, the most expeditious and pleasant route would be by the way of Sandusky & Detroit. If you conclude to come by the way of Toledo, you will have to spend the night at Adrian if you wish to get here the next day by the stage. If you stay at Toledo all night you can get here the next evening by taking the Toledo boat for Detroit. If you conclude to spend the night at Adrian, I am told that the Exchange is the best hotel there. I hope you understand all. I wish much that you could have company on your way home; I do not feel satisfied to have you traveling alone. May God direct & take care of you.

Let me know exactly when to look for you, for I will feel
very uneasy until I have you safe in my arms.

When you go to Dayton, give my love to all.

I am glad to hear so good an account of James Clark,
it gives me great hopes for Malcolm.

Give much love to My Darling Child. Tell her she
must be a good girl when you leave her, and that
I will write to her sometimes.

Good bye, May God bless you both my precious
ones. — I may write to you at Dayton, if I find
from your next that a letter from me can meet
you there, for you will want to know how we are
all prospering.

Again I must say good bye.

Your ever loving husband

N. P. Van Cleave.

To C. C. Van Cleave } In Camp in the Woods
3 } May 14 Wednesday 6 o'clock A.M.

My dear wife

I have an opportunity to send
you a few lines today, and cannot let it slip.
I have not, however, letters written to Mal-
colm, Seymour & Edwin. If I do write to
you, they do not appreciate it. I must
give you my love & loving wishes. I
wish I could have your letters back.
We are all well & in good spirits. I am
glad that we are so happy in these
forests. I might write properly here
about this forest, for it is one of the
forests from the extremity of Keweenaw
Point to the East to the Central Point & East
to the West (Keweenaw Point) are the West,
with here and there a mining locality
as an oasis in the desert, or an island in
the sea. In about one month from
this day, God prospering us in our jour-
ney we hope to be in Ann Arbor, and I
hope to embrace my darling wife and
precious children.

We calculate to move camp to day a few miles west, and the boys are now preparing their packs, I striking the tents, and I can say but little more.

The children will all be glad to see me, excepting Sam. He will care but little for the sight, and that little will not be of the right sort. You must teach him to think a great deal of his far off father. Kiss all my dear children for me. If all the love and kisses ever are distributed at once, it may occupy much time, and you all may be over-burdened; Perhaps you had better do, as the man at Flat Rock wished us to do with his fat ox, kill it as we wanted it. By the bye, a piece of good roast beef would not shahd bad change from salt pork. It might be a good idea to drive one with us and kill him whenever we wanted fresh beef.

Good bye, my God bless you my darling wife, and my dear children and keep you all from harm Devil.

Your own dear husband
J. P. Van Cleave