



Horatio P. Van Cleve and
family papers.

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June 24 1857

Dear Charlotte

Enclosed is \$50. which is for
two quarters. The one not yet due. The other
as I understood Mrs. Clarke should have
been forwarded on the 1st of May but as
I did not think of it I now forward \$50.
We are all quite well & expect Mr. Mellen
in a few days. Mary will spend some
months there with Ellen. Mrs. Clarke &c. Mrs.
Clarke has been with them for some time
I have visited them once this year & shall
do so again this summer. Mr. Mellen is built
up a fine town there and I think his
prosperity will bring him out a fortune.
They expect late in the summer or fall
to pay you a visit. I hope to come up
too but that will depend much upon
circumstances as I am very busy, very
busy and a few days absent make a large
gap in my business. I shall try to come
up for a day or two. If it did not take
so long to go up & come back from the San-
day I would certainly come but I shall
have to go there once or twice and may
thus use all my spare time
Remember me to all

Yours sincerely

E. A. Fairbanks

Mrs Charlotte Vancler
(Care of H. P. Vancler)

Indian

Michigan



Chas. F. Blair
Greenwich
Montgomery Co.
Ohio

Ann Arbor Aug 5th 1853.

My own dear Husband,

Your letter of Aug. 1st containing a page from Malcolm has just arrived, and I sit down to answer it while it is warm. I was glad to learn that you were well, but I ray-ther guess you are a little homesick. You must keep good heart and remember where to look for strength. You are worried about Malcolm and that depresses your spirits. I feel very anxious about him too, but if we do all we can for him and ask God to add his blessing, we ought not to be over-anxious, for that would be to distrust God. Let us leave this great trial with all our others in the hands of our Heavenly Father. He will do right. If he sees best, he will make our boy a blessing and comfort to us, but if for his own wise purpose, perhaps for a chastisement for our sins and unfaithfulness, he is pleased to make him a curse, may he give us grace to say "Thy will be done" Let us however strive to do our duty and to hope for the best. You say he is not vicious, but idle in his habits. You remember the old copy "Idleness and ignorance are the parents of many vices" I fear that unless he soon acquires industrious studious habits he will soon contract vicious dissipated ways, which

will wear his poor soul and bring down his
gray hairs with sorrow to the grave. I love that boy
more than tongue can tell. He is my first-born
and I can never forget the feeling of certainty which
I experienced when I first heard his "see piping
voice". It was a feeling of pride, of anticipated hope
and great joy that a man was born
into the world. Truly I remembered no more the
pain and agony I had endured for him. This
was the first voice that called us by the dear names
"father" "mother". He is the staff upon which we
ought to lean for comfort in our declining years
but he cannot support our weight unless he strength-
ens himself by study and self-discipline. What
shall we do? I think sometimes that he may
love to have a son of his own who may be as he
is, he will then learn with pain, "how sharper
than a serpent's tooth, it is, to have a thankless
child" but that will be all too late for us, for
we shall probably be in our graves. Fast I have
wandered far from my task both in spirit and
in letter. I now return to it and try to finish.
Well as mine, "I will cast all my care on him
who careth for me". The other children are all as
well as usual, except little Ed. he has symptoms
of diphtheria, but I got some medicine from Dr. Sager
last night which will stop the difficulty before it

makes much headway. I trust. He is not sick
about on the contrary is full of fun and frolic
but I thought it best to give him some remedy
in the outset as many children are suffering
from that dreadful complaint at present. Poor
Mr. Hobart lost his only remaining son the other
day with this disease, he was about 18 years of age.
You remember that when Mr. L. was installed
he had a son lying dead in his house. Truly
they have been afflicted, but their trial is much
softened by the certainty they must feel of a reunion
with their lost ones in Heaven. Dr. Sager noticed
that I looked pale and feeble, and asked me if I
was taking anything to strengthen me. I said no,
and he said I ought to take strong beer every
day. I told him if he would insure my not becom-
ing a typh I would try it. So I suppose I must be an-
der the painful necessity of imbibing, so soon as I can
get some money to get some liquor. People almost
start when they see me in the street, as they would
if they saw a ghost, but the secret of my pale face
lies in the fact that there is a young vampire pay-
ing upon my life and strength almost hourly
and increasing in size prodigiously while I am
wasting away. I feel very well at heart however and
think that the air, and the cool weather of fall will
make me as handsome as ever. I am, dear you,

have written to Sam, and hope he will fix
upon some excuse for our going with him. I
shall be satisfied with any thing that pleases
him and you. The boy will do credit to his name
whatever it may be. He is one of my greatest com-
forts. He is so good now you would hardly know
him for the fidgety little puz you left him. He
will be still with any one, and only uneasy when
he is hungry or sleeping. I called on Mr. Corlan
this morning and found that Miss Cox had been
there after our settlement and collected that bill.
I have not yet had one cent and doubt much
if I receive any of the school monies. Of those left
for me to collect, several have to have large deduc-
tions on account of absence. So you see what a trick
she has served me. She has not manifested the least
disposition to act honorably by me. She felt much
think because I had a baby and she had n't and
is determined to get all out of me that she can by way
of reparation for the wrong she has sustained. I doubt
if you get my letters as soon as you should. I have
written three to Germantown besides this and you
have only rec'd one. What can be the reason? That
letter you wrote to Mother has never reached him
and after waiting a long while he wrote a line, which
I rec'd yesterday, to know if you had received this let-
ter. Now why can't our letters go safely and straight?
I am sure we direct them right. Tell me of my letters
as you receive them and let me know how long they
are in going. Do you get the Bostonian to read? and would
you like me to send it to you? The last number is an excellent
one. The children all send love. No fear of their forgetting
you while I am here to talk of you. Good bye dear husband
God bless and keep you always. Your own true loving wife 62 1/2

[found with letter of
Aug. 5, 1853]

YOUNG LADIES' SEMINARY, ANN ARBOR, MICH.

MRS. CHARLOTTE O. VAN CLEVE, Principal.

PRIMARY DEPARTMENT.

ENGLISH GRAMMAR, (*Bullion's*.)
GEOGRAPHY, (*Mitchell's*.)
MENTAL ARITHMETIC, (*Stoddard's*.)
PRACTICAL ARITHMETIC, (*Davies' or Thompson's*.)
SPELLING, READING, WRITING, COMPOSITION.

TUITION in the above, \$3 per quarter, to be paid in the middle of the quarter.

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The Course of Studies in the Higher Department embraces

HISTORY, BOTANY, CHEMISTRY,
NATURAL PHILOSOPHY,
CUTTER'S PHYSIOLOGY,
ALGEBRA, (*Davies'*.) GEOMETRY, (*Playfair's Euclid*.)
EVIDENCES OF CHRISTIANITY,
RHETORIC,
MENTAL PHILOSOPHY, (*Upham's*.)
LATIN AND GREEK, (*Bullion's Grammars and Readers*.)
SPELLING, READING, WRITING, COMPOSITION.

TERMS OF TUITION in the above, \$5 per quarter, to be paid in the middle of the quarter.

EXTRA CHARGES.

MUSIC ON THE PIANO	-	-	\$8 00	per quarter.
USE OF PIANO	-	-	2 00	" "
DRAWING AND PAINTING	-	-	5 00	" "
FRENCH AND GRAMMAR	-	-	5 00	" "

EXPENSES.—The expenses of Board, Fuel, Lights, Rooms furnished, \$25 per quarter, to be paid in advance. ~~12~~ Washing, 25 cents per dozen.

THE ACADEMIC YEAR commences on the *last Monday in August*, and will be divided into Two Terms of twenty-two weeks each.

There will be a Vacation of two weeks at the close of the First Term, and one of six weeks at the close of the Second.

you dare to bury it in a napkin
and suffer the beautiful sentence
which will cement you? Think of it
for a moment. "I charge thee unprofitable
thief of man's soul, the thief of the
murderer, but simply the scoundrel
who was of no profit to himself & his
master." Canst thou wilt thou
continue? Let others to find a way
to give the pearls of the best talents
and then receive like a man - take
your talent out of the circle, then
up the mountain for fear you should
be tempted to use it in vain, and go
to work to make your talent gain
at first an increase, then at last
when your Lord comes he will
praise what he hath done and
the interest for the use of it. Now is
the only time you are having to use
now more never come to you, then
never yourself will determine by
God's help to be a man and a
useful individual, within one who
shall ask his part, till he has put
to God and his fellow-man and
who shall save the joyful pleasure

Well done good and faithful servant.
Enter thou into the joy of thy
Lord." Come speak of father being able
yet to make good. It is true he was a
weak hand, and the time is hasten-
ing on, but he will be and he saved
the man's soul. Who will take his
place then? who will lead him & shout
let's be on as he totters down the hill
of life? Would you be willing to resign
that board office to another? Then fit
yourself very beloved, now, to receive
some measure of the love which has
been lavished on you, to supply the
want of that strength that has been
lent out to make you comfortable.
A many seem tedious to you now to
study. But if the road is hard to travel
you remember the old song. "Take
off your coat, and take up your staff,
and go forth, for you will need a
termination to conquer all difficulties
study well and with your sword by your
side history or biography. Think of George
Lincoln, what stature then was in the way
of his concep. and yet so high his
name stands among the great men
of the world. And is reading his life not
a masterpiece with it. I hope you can
soon tell me what you have completed
under the first book in the series. For then
the work will come easier. Good bye my

Horatio R. Yates
Germania
Wentzoungler
Ohio.



Amherst Aug 9th 1853 Tuesday

My dear Husband,

I have rec'd two letters from you since I wrote
last and am glad to hear from you. But that you are contented
and as happy as you can expect to be, separated from your beloved fam-
ily who probably miss you fully as much as you do them. I am some-
what discouraged about writing any more letters for they do not reach
you until they are old and stale, and some I imagine do not get
to you at all. What is the matter with the mail? I told you the young
letter to Mr. Merriam reached him, and yesterday a letter from him
informs me that he had written regarding my weekly report for the last
time since he left New York last year. Several letters directed to me have
stopped for some short of time, and if my letters continue to be mis-
sery in this regard, I shall feel as if the matter should be taken into
consideration. I have been in the city and have given him a letter to the
boy messenger to deliver to him. I hope he will have written to me soon.
I am sure he has been from you and that you have given him the
reassurance of our family but that he is afraid to decide on it without
first questioning it to see if you are ready to begin him for he
says he has a silver cup waiting patiently for a name. I shall write
to him something about it on Friday although I hardly like to touch
the mighty point. In May last I wrote that little Ed. was not well he had
since cut two large double teeth and is of course much better. The last week
as well as usual. Anna has commenced hearing them to sleep before
to-day, and I hope they will improve much under home instruction.
Lizzie is a very tender hearted child when I read your letter to her
she burst into tears and then in her arms assumed my neck she
said, "I do love father." If she ever loved her mother, be sure you will
or let her meet with the best treatment, she does not need it and
could not bear it. I am sure to have written to you in my
commonplace book better than this but have been interrupted
meaning to write that I shall have to hurry it very much indeed.
To get it ready for the mail. I fear I forget it I must write to you.
That Hamilton Bogardus is very anxious to get a situation in
some capacity on some R.R. of course I suppose at the top of the
world like to be near you. I proposed to speak to you about
it when I write next. His mother is anxious to take her place in
would want to live in the house and Everett says his son
who would fix things a little more spite. I hope there may be
at present. I suppose the place would look more saleable if it
could be shelved up somewhat. Bogardus if he took it would
hold himself in readiness to give it up when it was sold.
But Mr. H. and has just driven by with a load of wheat
I suspect for I sent him word that I would like to have
it sold immediately, and it is bringing \$1.00 per bushel. When
he stops, I can talk to him a little about matters and things
see what he wants to do etc. He is such a go-ahead that I
think we could not get a better hand on the place, but
I know it would be an advantage to have some one in
the house that would stir round nicely enough to keep the
grass down in the paths, and keep the pigs from rooting up the
door yard. I wish the whole concern might be sold, but hear

nothing about it as yet. Never mind our Father in Heaven
can manage our affairs better than we can. Let us trust
it all to Him knowing that He will do all things. I am
getting Seymour and Chick into the way of minding me
I believe and hope they will be pattern boys when you see
them again. Seymour is a born mag. I hid them both
to the red post last week for running away. After I came
out of the room Seymour sent a complaint to me, that
Chick's string had a tapel on the end and his had not.
They had great sport in their imprisonment played till
they were tired and then laid down on the bed
and went to sleep. However that punishment together with
one other still more direct and forcible appeal to their fel-
ings has had an excellent effect upon them. I am along
finely with the little girls and we are all doing much
better than you would think it possible. Should we not
feel very thankful that we are able to sell our wheat so
well? It will make me quite independent and I'll man-
age for I shall be economical. Don't think of sending
me any remittances until I write to you that I want
some money. I shall have an abundance. Many days I
must tell you it will be hard to wait for just now when
there are so many heavy clouds and the winter is so cold
and in that time, but she says she shall be very careful
when she marries. Anna will try and get time to answer
your and Malcolms letters very soon. I keep the child as
busy as a bee most of the time. Give much love to Malcolms
I hope he is a good studious boy now. He has been and hoped
with him. I know he loves us and wants to do right. God
will help him to overcome his much of energy if he will but
ask him. I shall have some strong beer in a few days and
I will then drink your health. I hope it will restore my
strength and make a young woman of me. I wish you
could see the baby. He is really a beautiful boy and is the
best baby we ever had except Malcolm. The children all send
love. Mrs Thompson also sends her love. I must close for I am
expecting Mr Howard every minute and I do not want to have
this letter miss the mail. I will write a better and longer letter in a
day or two. God bless you my dear husband every year true
wife

Indian town Saturday Evening
Sept. 31st 1853 I received

from you my letter of the 24th October 1853

Your previous letter, deserves very high
and interesting interest, and I intended that yours to
me, which came to me & which I should have had a
more interesting answer than the one I sent, but my
time was so much occupied with business that my letter short.
And it is my wish this evening, after saying a few things
to you, to know a little what with the children who may
fear that father might be there. But they must not think so.
When father writes to mother, he knows that mother will tell
them every thing that may interest them. I should like
Anna to write to Malcolm or to me frequently, as often
as once a week if possible. It would be a good exer-
cise for her. I have required Malcolm, lately, to copy
from some book when he has opportunity, to improve
him in writing, spelling, and penmanship, and also
to teach him accurately in copying. All these things
are gained by it, and I think it an excellent exer-
cise, and one that would benefit Anna.

I have thought a little, and you may rest assured
that it has been but little of the low, contemptible gos-
sip that has been indulged in by some of our acquaint-
ances, I cannot say friends. I hope you will not let
it trouble you. I intend to ask my worthy brother
John whether it is really true that he has forbidden his
daughters from visiting Anna. If part of the family
cannot associate together of course none of them can.

With regard to the silly stories, that have been circulated
if people are so silly as to believe them I surely will not
be silly enough to waste my time in trying to set them
right. I do not think we want to quarrel. If you
agree with me that it would be wise to ask John
the question I will write to him, and if he says that
it is so, then it will be necessary that all intercourse
between the families cease. I certainly will not go
where my children cannot be with me. You do not un-
derstand for a moment that you are being treated with rage
or looking upon or grieved as if my feelings were hurt
for I am just as cool as you might expect me to be
if I were listening to a sermon from Dr. Constock or
Father Dixon, or any of that order. In fact I am ra-
ther too cool, and would be glad to receive a little
glash of fire this damp evening. I am waiting
in our office, it being more pleasant than to sit
by my washstand, where I generally pen my epistles.
And we have not yet got a stove up. This
reminds me that our stove is to be sold, that all that
we do not need and all the extra pipe after being
all over stoves, and this would be a good time
to sell them. Let Mr. Overton help you dispose of them.

I shall have to step in this evening to see my darling
wife and children and spend the Sabbath with you
but as I cannot I must be satisfied with writing to
you, thinking of talking about you, praying for you and when
I sleep dreaming about you. Malcolm was in the
room a short time since and read again your letter
to him. When he closed it he said his eyes were
distended with tears, and he told me that he intended
to write a long letter to you tomorrow, but was too tired

to write tonight. I must now bid you good night,
may God bless my darling wife and keep her from
harm. May he be your Supporter and Comforter in all
times of trouble. When afflicted, vexed, troubled or en-
gaged to him he will bring you safely through all your
difficulties. And do not forget to pray earnestly for
your absent husband and son.

Good Night. Sabbath afternoon.
I have just finished letters to all my dear chil-
ren that are at home and Malcolm has just finished
letter to you and has left me because it is too old to
send. He has not yet decided to submit to a little incision.
Malcolm appears to be a boy of good principles, a boy of truth
and not of vain glory. He is not fond of study as you well
know. When I try to raise his ambition, and succeed
in persuading him to study a few hours, he
has missed a multitude of sins, and that a
few hours study demands days of indulgence. He is
ever ready to form good resolutions and to make pro-
mises, but nothing save the Grace of God will enable
him to keep them. For this I accept my dear wife, it
is necessary for us to pray for him and to pray ear-
nestly and faithfully. For sometimes you he will prove
himself to be the worst of those good qualities. I
have a great deal of anxiety about him. He acts
and appears much more like a boy of twelve than
one of fifteen. I do not so much so that he is good-
ly happy and contented as he is. He is not
set out going like a boy, as if we expected to have
our prayers answered. God has promised, and we
he will perform. We and we shall (not, may, but shall).

receive, The promise is direct, When we pray, we must
think of God's promises, How many, many prayers
are offered through our forum, merely on the supposition
that we are discharging a duty, without the least ex-
pectation of their being answered. We are not thus dishonour-
ing God, by trying to deceive him, and at the same time shak-
ing his word. I do not ask for my children, riches, or hon-
ours with man, or long life, but I ask for Heavenly wisdom.
Help me to pray, my dear wife, pray with me for my
dear children, Morning, Noon, Evening, & at midnight.
Let us pray for our dear children.

I have not attended Church today; perhaps
I should go, but it is hard to expect profit when
there is so little satisfaction to be had, frequently, so much
that is trying to the feelings of a Christian. This morn-
ing I read the 119th Psalm, and a little in the "Life
of Elijah" That excellent book. I read part of the
fifth with the sixth Chapter. He had had an inter-
view with the good Obadiah and was given the word
that, and told him to gather the prophets of Baalim
together on Mount Carmel, and there it is to be decided
whether Jehovah is God, or Baalim.

I shall like standing to speak this afternoon
with you, and read the beautiful book aloud.
But God will, it shall be without any of our
murmuring, or complaining. May he bless you
keep you, comfort you, watch over you, direct
you, provide for you, and restore me to you all
in his own good time. Remember me in your
prayers, and ever pray as if you expected to have
your requests granted. Good bye Darling.
Love ever loving and kind, H. H. C. C.

The enclosed note, and the school reports I send by this mail, I wish you wd send to Mr Parker

South Street, New York
[Raytown Feb. 18th 1854]
[Feb. 18, 1854]

My own friends & wife
I arrived here last evening & found the family all well. This morning was invited to go to hear the Unitarian Unitarian preaching & to see the friends of the cause. I took a pleasant ride, but I have never yet been a very good account of it. I took a steamer from Cincinnati to the Sandy, & reached the Sandy at 10 AM. The Sandy is a fine city of Louisiana in the shape of a High Pressure Steam Packet. John Foster, the master, at Sandy, & after leaving Sandy, the ship went down where the hills were rising, many in mounting the coast. Now as we were ascending, holding the horses manes for fear of sliding over his tail, and when descending holding on to the tail for fear of tumbling over his head, we finally arrived at the City of New Orleans, in Louisiana, where I spent ten days very pleasantly, during the absence of my dear wife. There settling with a friend, in company with Mr. Snow, whom I converted into a Christian (in appearance) at Cincinnati by taking him to Mr. Pezzer and compelling him to accept a pair of black rumoured

spectacular, have been opposite London
to enable the owner to purchase the key of
some of the best families in Virginia; then
Patience and voyage down the Shenandoah, which
by the bye, is a beautiful river, winding its
way between the mountains with its banks
surrounded by majestic Symonies, which
must look beautiful when covered with
foliage, - as far as the mouth, where we stop-
ped for the night, or rather in evening, for we
did not reach there till about 12 o'clock, and
took lodgings at the Hampton House in Pittsburg,
which house is now kept by the Martins
and next day took a steamer
on the Great West Land at Pittsburg
the next morning (Sunday) about 4 o'clock
in good company - for fear that if such an ac-
count should be committed to paper I should
see it staring me in the face when I
should take up the next number of the
Harper, and be continually, from thence-
forth, annoyed by letters from publishers
requesting me to visit the Polar Sea and
travel across the Desert of Sahara, giving
ample funds, that they might have occasion-
ally a cold ship from the frozen, and a
hot bill from the latter to send up to their
debtors, and make their paper sell; which

you know would be very trying to me if
my modest and sensitive, always shrink-
ing with an instinctive dread from the public gaze, -
which gaze would be fastened upon me, like a
Landing wood tick, which you will find are very
abundant, compelling the exposure on its banks
to a very critical personal inspection every eve-
ning, after divesting him or herself of every parti-
cle of clothing, which by the bye would be a very
unpleasant predicament to be caught in, were
it not an every ^{nightly} business and a work of
absolute necessity - preferring much to live in
seclusion and the bosom of my family, to being
dragged before the public gaze, and treated
(as you must read this felted and toiled,
that is booted and kicked) on all occasions,
as the author of the "Voyage up the Big Sandy."

You will therefore excuse me my dear wife,
will you not? - Fizzie had fine times rambling
over the hills with Ma Sam and myself. We went
through the tunnels to the Coal Banks, and walked
back over the hills. We also went upon the Tar-
peins rock, from which eminence we had
a fine view of the town and river. She
was well liked and told me of many tales
and. In your letters to Frank Richard you
must tell her that I have spoken of it.

You see I am now in Clayton, N. J.

more his children in the world of futurity.
(A very pretty sentiment, and altogether original.)
You may however venture to direct to me
him, to the care of J. S. Phillips. When I leave
he will know my whereabouts, and will
forward your letter to me. I find all well.
Uncle looks much better than usual.

I think you had better not calculate to
leave ^{home} before the opening of navigation. You
would find the journey by stage very fatiguing.
I think the Lakes will be open very early,
if we can judge by the climate here. We have
had a remarkably mild winter so far.
We have not made more on this subject before
you will think of starting. I expect to make
arrangements to meet you in Cincinnati.
It appears that I have been absent
from home ages. I was with a little grati-
fied with what you said of the Medical Society.
I wish that were able to make Anna a present
of a new piano. She ought to have one now.

Give much love and many kisses to the
dear baby child, and all my precious children,
Mabel & Seymour & Eddie & Sam; Ellen & John
& her girls. And how my dear wife may
God bless & keep you. Say for me, my darling
son, our loving best love to
Aunt Sarah & Uncle

Amherst, N. H. Dec 10th 1857

My dear husband,

Your last letter from Ellensburg
came in a dark letter when I had been con-
fined several days with a bad cold in my
face. I have suffered much but I think be-
fore long. Recently, however, I am able to come down
stairs and sit down once more to write
to you. The rest of us are all well and as
happy as usual. Mother is looking forward with
much pleasure I think to her return to her
favorite, although I think she has enjoyed
her winter quite well. But when the summer
there will she must be also. We think of starting
about the first of April. Mr Bailey will go with us
to spend part of his holiday at Peach Orchard
and look around. He is a fine & a young
man. When shall I find you? I am puzzled
to know. Mr Stock a very gentlemanly fellow
from Germany, now in the graduating class
is thinking of settling in Germantown ^{as doctor} you
will be much pleased with him. I know
but it is certain that your head quarters will
be Germantown this spring and summer.
I am almost dying to know something of your
plans. I suppose you will go to work in a couple

of much, do tell me what are your prospects. I hope
you have seen or that you will be able to do some
thing with that Hudson land, do let us try to get
free once and be able to walk erect like
others. I am so tired of being tied down to
the earth, crippled in every limb, living from
hand to mouth, not knowing when our next
garment is to come from, and obliged
to dodge round corners, for fear of action.
Make a desperate effort and let us swing
clear of the breakers. I am not quite
well yet, and as you see am somewhat
nervous, and when I think how we have
to be separated now, and how when I am
sick there is no one to put or pity me
no one to relieve me of the care of the
baby during the night or to pillow my
aching head upon his bosom, I feel as
if I would rather die than live so much
longer. This is a bad state of feeling you will
say and very ungrateful. I know it is and
I hope God will forgive me. Sometimes I
say in the words of the Psalmist "How long
O Lord, how long?" May be graciously pity is
and bring great good out of seeming evil.
I know that if you could take me in your
arms and let me hear one good cry I
should feel better. I ought not to write to, for

I fear it will make you low-spirited, but you
know me well enough to know that I shall
get over it soon, and I must let you of
my sad feelings for who will sympathize with
me but you. Try the time you get there, you
must think that I feel much better and
not trouble yourself about it. I am very
glad that you finally got to Peach Oak
and and that you are pleased. I know
you will miss dear Lizzie. Sweet little
I do so want to see her. I don't trust my-
self to think about it much for I couldn't
bear it. Malcolm is studying now with Mr.
Leach who is becoming quite popular as
a teacher, he has my books and I thought
I would try and get some remuneration from
him. Malcolm is studying Geometry and Arithme-
tic and I hope you will find him somewhat
improved. Anna is improving much in mu-
sic especially. We spent the evening very pleas-
antly at Professor Tupper's a short time since.
They are very delightful people. Showed us some
beautiful pictures they had brought from
Germany. Some of them were very beautiful
pictures talked to me much of Anna's progress.
The beauty and her sweet play my - asked very
particularly about you and last but not
least gave us some delicious claret.

I want you to forget that I felt babyish and
foolish when I began this letter. I have had
my cry (not in your arms to be sure) and feel
better now. don't feel bad with you? We really
have a great deal to be thankful for. I think
you will do well and perhaps in another year
all the clouds will clear away and we may
be comfortably settled somewhere where we
can see each other occasionally at least and
after all what if we are not? But a few years
will pass before we may be in Heaven and
think that trifles our present trials will seem
either way will be right. Ellen is very happy
with her bright prospects, and is much more
at ease now that she is out of the tremors
of Popery. Wouldn't it not be pleasant for you
to see her in a Protestant church listening for
herself and trying to think for herself? She at-
tends our church three each Sabbath, and goes
with mother in the afternoon.

I have kept this letter open until the mail came in
hoping to get a letter from you though hardly
expecting one. Now arrived and I close my shabby
complaining sheet. Hoping that my next will look
better and brighter. God bless you dear husband
and may He forgive me all my shortcomings
and make me fit for Heaven. Love to
all. Will send you. I shall write to Ann
Belle and Lizzie tomorrow.

Ever yours, ever loving to
your suffering wife
C. A. B.

[Feb. 17, 1854]

Dayton Feb. 17, 1854

My own dear wife

I have about made up my mind, to take the car to Cincinnati, and remain there till Monday, then take a steam boat for Vainville, then take stage for Blairsville, spend a day or two with the children, Ellen & Mary, then return by the way of Dayton to Cincinnati, and this City I leave Mr. Wellington to day and he thinks they will meet me on the road in about two weeks. This would give me time to visit my own dear wife and children, but when I was in Cincinnati I wrote to Mr. Houston to direct to me at this place, & I want to be here the last of next week, to get his letter and also to see Mr. Wellington again. — I asked him if they would need Malcolms. He said not till in the summer, when they would be laying the track. I think this would be just as well for Malcolms, he would be able to continue his studies, and would assist Mrs. Thomson in taking care of our dear little ones during your absence. —

I made some inquiries yesterday for a situation for Eliza, but was told the Engineers

inquire into the paper now, I have not

of whom I enquired, told me that he had
discharged within the past two weeks, some
six or seven of his Corps. Owing to the difficul-
ty of raising money, at the present time, Rail
Roads are not making much progress. In Maine
they have discharged the most of their force, barely
keeping sufficient to say they are still prosecu-
ting the work, in order that their stock may be
in good repute. Our bump of hope is large, how-
ever, and we look for better times. Has any
thing been done in Michigan this winter about
Rail Roads? If they have not, a general Rail Road
Law will be passed next winter, if then I am
alive and well, I will have a chance of get-
ting employment once more. — I hear
nothing of the missing Saw. What has become of
it? Has it been declared to be one stolen
thing? Has it become a dead letter? Or is it
unfound? — I say to you since I wrote
to you, enclosed a note for Mr. Vossler's &
sent two pamphlets for him. Did you
receive them? If so was he pleased with
them. I thought they might throw a little
light on our school matters. I should like to
know what he thought of them, for I thought
they would make his children's Saw light
up in a better way. — I have
just received a letter from Mr. Vossler.

I often think of you and your family. I
say nothing about it now, but I feel that
that you have been and are still
suffer from it. I must blame you a little for
not speaking of it. — What Anna recovered
entirely from the effects of the group? Tell
me every thing, darling, respecting yourself
and the children. Does Sam creep yet, or stand
alone, or walk, or do any smart things, is our
children always happy? Does Edie sing or do any
thing particularly worth recording? He must
assuredly must for he is our child. Does he
sing, read his books, or play truant, or manifest
a disposition to be mischievous in the streets?
All these things I want to know. Tell me all
you can about Anna, for every word makes
me feel proud of my daughter. How does
Malcolm prosper? Perhaps he would be willing
to give a quarter to see his father. Does he still
take an interest in his school. I feel very anx-
ious to have him improve his mind. Has he
learned yet to play a tune for me on the violin.
I wish him to learn to play one tune well for me.
Dick Thompson plays very well. He is now out
with his family, when he has time to devote to his
— how many or heads can he play

Page 1
Cincinnati Sabbath Morning
Feb. 26th 1854

My own dear wife

You see I am again
in Cincinnati. I arrived last evening
by stage from Lexington. My visit to
Kentucky was very gratifying to me.
I found the children well, as you
learned from my letter from Danville.
I was treated with much hospitali-
ty by the Well family, the Helms &
family; I travelled over a beautiful
country; saw the residence of the
and last, but not least, fell in love
with a charming young widow
(She must have been a widow, for she was
in mourning, and her only escort was
a boy, her son doubtless, about twelve
years of age) in the stage coach. Yesterday
I first attacked the boy, and af-
terwards made a direct, and as I
trust, successful charge upon the
widow. But like many other gas-
trophors, was finally compelled to yield
myself a captive. But stage coaches
will come to stopping place, and tra-
vellers must separate. I bade the
fair widow from the coach (her sweet
"good night" still sounds in my ears). I
have to leave 2)

Page 2
hook her fingers ^{Page 2} did not tangle
so she could not sleep. You know
in helping a lady ^{down} the awkward
steps of a stage coach we
must hold her hand tight that she
may not come to harm. You may
ask ^{her name} I can only say I did get as
far as that. So farewell my wisdom.

When I wrote from Danville I
was about starting for Stamford.
I went there that evening. I found
Mary well. She is about as tall
now, and is the image of her mother.
She is a very quiet child, and
has a sad expression of countenance
very reserved before strangers, but
said to be lively & cheerful with her
companions. She appeared to be af-
fected when I bid her "good bye" & my
to leave her so soon. I
spent the night at Mr Helms. Mrs
Helms was injured by a fall some
time since & is obliged to walk
with crutches. She inquired very
particularly about you & the family.
The years that have passed since you
saw her have changed her very much.

Page 3
You would be very much pleased
with Mr & Mrs Bell & family. Mrs Bell is
a charming woman. The eldest
daughter is a sweet girl about fif-
teen; the second daughter, a fine girl,
has been a great sufferer for a year
past with a disease of the bone of the
left arm. The next child is a son
about ten years of age, a fine, manly
looking boy. The next & youngest is a
sweet pretty girl about eight.
I should have dearly to take you
on a visit there, I would not be ashamed
to take Anna & Margaret along. I speak
of them as the eldest of the children, I
am proud of all my little ones, and
not a little proud of the mother.

Although I have carried you last
letter with me constantly, I have had
no opportunity to answer it. The letters
I have written have necessarily been
hurried. Your letter has made me
feel more deeply than ever the severe trial
of being separated from all that I hold
most dear on earth. The idea that
we must be thus separated for any
length of time is too painful for en-
durance. You know, darling, that my
life is bound up in my precious wife

and sweet children, and to learn that you have been sick, while I have been far from you, and not able to nurse you, and sit by & comfort you, is hard for my poor man ~~husband~~, to bear. He knows it never fails to soothe your aching heart to rest it upon this bosom, which I can warm with love to you, my precious one. May God bless you, my dear wife, and ever keep you in health, and restore us to each other in comfort & happiness. I can sympathize with you in your low spirits when lying upon a sick bed. - Would to God that I had been by you. Although a poor nurse & miserable comforter, I know you love to have me near you. It must not be thus, for a long time. If I cannot get employment in Michigan, I must manage to bring you to the South. Would you be willing to come? - Do not hesitate, when you write to tell me all your sorrows, as well as joys. I want to know all.

Tell Malcolm I am very anxious
 to have him study hard, read his-
 tory, biography, travels French books
 as will always be of use to him, &
 also learn to play on the violin or
 piano. What he does, let him do well.
 Willie Daviers is preparing for
 college, and would like much
 to get in next fall, but thinks
 it will not be in his power. I
 did not like to encourage him to
 think that he might prepare himself
 by hard study for fear that he
 might injure his health. Willie ap-
 peared to be very glad to see me
 and clung closely to me as long as
 I remained there. He is an affec-
 tionate child and could not bear
 to have me leave. I told them ^{they} must
 visit us in Michigan and spend some
 time with us. I made inquiries
 about their property. Neither they
 nor Mr Bell knew that the amount
 that we receive from Uncle's estate
 had been increased. As yet they have
 received nothing from Philadelphia this
 winter. I intend to write to Mr. How-

Page 6
Now for a copy of the will, and I take
such measures as will insure
their receiving ^{their share of the legacy} without the neces-
sity of its going by the way of Missouri.
There is a College at Danville
(Center College) and Willie is now
in the preparatory department. I think
his expenses there would be less
than they would be at Centre.
But as our stay at A A may be
uncertain I did not propose
a change. I hope you will
write to the children as often
as possible. It will be a com-
fort to them to feel I know that they
are not forgotten; and you, my
dear wife, I want to hear of such sweet
letters. I want the children to
feel that we love them still, not-
withstanding our long separation.
You noticed from Willie's letter, that
he writes just like his mother.
Although the children appear to
be healthy, I sometimes fear they
may inherit that dreadful disease
(turn to page 7)

Page 7

(Some how by accident my widow
has made me turn over two leaves)

The consumption, from their father

On my return here I found Mr
Sinclair had rented a house on
7th Street west of Western Row.

It is a very pretty three story
house, well finished, lighted
with gas throughout, with a
bath room and every convenience
to make a pleasant residence.
They have commenced moving
and will be settled there by
Wednesday.

And now my dear wife, when
& where am I to meet you, You ask
me the question. I can answer
the question better when I get
back to Dayton, I can not tell
you now, as I do not know,
I may not be able to visit home
before you come down, which you
say will be about the first

went in April. I suppose navigation will then be open. I think you had better not start till the opening of navigation. You will find traveling by stage very uncomfortable. I suppose navigation will be open early. Have you had a cold winter in Michigan. It has been very mild most of the time, both here & in Kentucky. My widow told me it had been very cold in St. Louis. The Mississippi frozen so that teams were crossing & thousands of men & boys skating. I intend to write to Lizzie immediately. The next time I take the dear child away from you, to be so long separated from us both, I will know what I am about. This time I did not know.

Page 9

Mr Lincoln had a letter from
Peach Orchard today, from which
I learn that Lizzie is well.

Evening, I have been to see
Elizabeth Worthington. She enquired
particularly about you, and
wished me to tell you to write
to let her know when you came
to Cincinnati. She is troubled
with a difficulty in her throat
similar to yours perhaps, & in-
tends to go to New York in
the course of a few weeks to
see if any thing can be done
for it. She appeared to be
much interested in my ac-
count of Louisa's children.
She does not enjoy good health.

Tell Grandma some more
coal boats are on their way
down and coal is selling for 16 cents

When I go to ^{page 10} Daytown I expect
to find letters there from you
& Anna and perhaps from
Malcolm. I trust I will hear
good accounts from all the
children. You can little
imagine with what feelings
I always open a letter from
home; with my joy at receiv-
ing the letter there is always
a fear that it may contain
some sad or unpleasant intel-
ligence. From this remark
you must not fear to tell me
all that concerns you. If you
have any trouble let me know
it. Let me know all, who
can sympathize with you if
your husband does not.

My health is very good. The
idle life I have been leading

^{page 11}
of late appears to agree with
me. Still I am not satisfied
with it, but would much
prefer to be at work.

What did you all think
of the Phiz I sent you from
Daytown, I suppose I will find
out when I get to Daytown.
There was an unpleasant ex-
pression about the mouth, which
I suppose is perfectly natural
to the original, but if any one
had been telling some comical
story there might have been
an attempt at a smile.
As it was there was no one
in the room with me but the
artist, and all that he was
thinking about was the three
dollars he was to pocket when
his work was done. He looked
as grim as a bear watching

Page 12
for a stray pig on lamb by
which he might satisfy the
cravings of an empty stomach.

In speaking of Willis May
I forget to mention that on the
steamer coming from Mis-
souri they had stolen from their
trunk, a Gold locket contain-
ing a likeness of their father on
ivory, a gold Thumb nail and a
purse with some money in it, I
do not know how much.

I must now bid you
good night my own precious
one. May God bless you and
the dear children. Give much
love and many kisses to them
I love to Ellen & Grandmama,
How do the little ones get along
at school. - Say mama & Ellen &
Chick? And how is some body
else, my little Ned? Does Sam
walk & talk? I am glad to learn
that Malcolm & Anna are getting
along well with their studies & ma-
sir - Your devoted husband
H. P. Van Buren



3 Mrs. H. P. Van Cleave

Ann Arbor

Michigan

Dayton March 1st 1854

Wednesday Afternoon

My own darling wife

I left Cincinnati Monday evening at 5 o'clock. Our friends there were well. During the day I had assisted Mary a little in moving. I left her very busy. I found our friends here all well, and glad to hear from Willie & Mary. I found a letter from you, dated Feb 21st and another came yesterday dated Feb 25th. I am much indebted to you for attending to my requests, and regret much to learn that he and Ann are not well. Remember me to them. — I was in hopes that you had recovered from your malady, and am sorry to find that you still suffer from pain in your back and limbs. You must take good care of yourself, and keep up good courage, hoping for things and better times.

I expected to find on my arrival here that a letter from William Houston, but it has not arrived as yet. — I saw Mr Gunkle, President of our Board, yesterday. He says they expect to begin to push on their work in a week or so, and then they will need my services. I hope to learn something more definite in a day or two. If a day had been fixed for my return, and I had seen ² Mr

Your two letters, I would have started for the State of Michigan this morning, for I am very anxious to see you, my precious one, and my darling children. I have a great deal to say to you. Much to talk about, that I do not care to commit to paper. I have been very much interested in all that you have told me about Ellen, and hope that there is much happiness in store for her. - With regard to Mary, I do not feel at liberty to repeat any remarks that were made in my presence. They may have been made in confidence, and you know I have ever been careful not to betray what has been committed to me, in trust. Mary is a dear, sweet woman, and has treated me with much kindness, and so has Mr. Simola. I am much attached to both. You may know thought it strange that I maintained such a strict silence on this subject, and might have supposed that I felt but little interest in it. This has not been the case, for I have been deeply interested but fearing that I might say something wrong I thought it best to keep silent. I trust all will end well, and I have every confidence in your prudence & judgment.

I am glad you have a Doctor for French Oakland and only fear that he may not be able to make his everlasting fortune there. They need one, but I cannot say that they can sustain one. Let him try it. He may do well, very well. Everett might try teaching a year, and

if he does not like it at the end of a year, I think Mr. Mellen could get him some good clerkship in Cincinnati, or elsewhere if Everett prefers it.

I am glad to find that you were all satisfied with my Photograph, but I all. Tell Malcolm that was the hat, that was smashed the first day I got it & for which I was smothering I got from him a new one. I took it to the hatter and he pressed it for me, making it look like a new one.

I will be very happy to meet Dr. Stark at Germantown. He will find some very fine people there and some, of course, that are rather coarse, but we must be content to take the world as we find it. - How would more about Cincinnati. You ask, if you will be welcome there. I think you will be very welcome. What I now say is to you. You know Mary's disposition, I sometimes fear that there will be a scene when she speaks to E on the subject of religion. I may not understand Mary but I sometimes think that in such an affair she would be influenced more by pride than by any sincere regard for her religious faith.

I am glad to hear that Malcolm is studying hard. Tell him I thank him for his letter, and am delighted to hear such a good account of the family. They would not disappear rapidly if they were not very good, unless you are all on the verge of starvation. - I was much gratified with all you said about Anna, she is a dear sweet child

and must be a great comfort to you. I was
not a little pleased to get her letter. I will
try to write to both of the children soon. And little
Sam has found out that he has a tongue and
feet. I should love to give him a hearty squeeze.
Little Somebody else thinks father should take her
hut off in the house. Well I will next time. — Of
one darling child you said nothing in particular.
Our precious Seymour. Father loves his boy, and
wants to hear how he prospers. Give much love
and many kisses to them all, & to Ellen & Eliza.

If my life is spared you may expect to hear
from me again in a day or two. —

I was not surprised at the account you gave
of Mother's visit to our friends, and at the remarks
that were made. I thought they would some day
see their error. I trust you will do what you
think right, & visit them if you think best. I have
not no ill will. —

I am looking over the papers to see the arrivals
at the Burnett House on Saturday night, my
charming widow proves to be ^{the boy's} a ^{brother} ~~a~~ ^{Miss}. So there is
an end to all my romantic visions. There
is something interesting in a young widow. Girls
we meet every day. —

Give much love to Mother & Eliza. Tell me-
there not to be too impatient to start for the Ken-
tucky Knobs, but wait for pleasant weather and
the opening of navigation. — I am well very very dear
wife. Pray for your wandering husband. I need
your prayers. May God bless you my darling.
I am your devoted husband
J. P. B. B. B. B. B.



Mrs. Charlotte Van Buren
Peach Orchard
Lawrence County
Kentucky.

Yam. Arbor Apr. 21. 1854

My dear wife

Yours dated Peach Orchard Apr. 11th
Postmarked Cincinnati Apr. 18th I received on the 19th
I was rejoiced to hear that you had reached
there in safety, and had found our darling
Lizzie well. I trust after walking five miles
down and sundry times, climbing hills and
wading creeks, we will hear no more complaining
about the walks around town. It would not
sound well. Such a tramp was necessary
in order that you might appreciate the Sandy
Hill its glories. I suppose the children are
now perfectly happy, enjoying your delightful
weather in rambles over the hills. I can
readily imagine that the scenery around you at
this season of the year, must be magnificent.
Enjoy it as long as you feel inclined to, with-
out giving yourself any anxiety about the
children at home; for they are getting along
very well and are very happy. Your letter
brought warm weather, and we have had
delightful spring weather, so that the children
can play out of doors and they enjoy it much.
Much of the day is spent at school and Sym-
mon & Eddie read to me every day. Symmon
reads quite well, and Eddie will soon learn

for he is very persevering. I took a walk with him this morning, to the depot, to see the cars come in, and seeing a lady in one of the cars, he said: there comes mother; and appeared very much delighted. He soon forgot it, however, in watching the cars move. But on our way back, which was some time after they had gone out of sight, he appeared to think of it again, and said: I wish mother would come home. This is the first time he has manifested any particular anxiety on the subject. Ellen & Chick are very well.

Mrs Thomson has been to see Mrs Williams this afternoon. She says Lettie (I never saw the name in print, is that right?) is failing very fast. Mrs W. has never called a physician to see her till to-day I believe; and now, do you think she has consulted? The most potent, wise, and revered Follen or Fulton. The woman must be beside herself. Lettie looks as if she might not live two weeks, Mrs T. says.

Mrs T. asked me yesterday, if it was our calculation to have them board here this summer. I told her, that we could not spare the room she occupied, as it was only convenient bed room for us in the house, and that I had understood you, that the arrangement was to continue only until you return. I am glad she asked me for I wished her to know it, and felt a delicacy about telling her.

We get along very pleasantly, and comfortably. I might add economically.

I saw martins or swallows flying about this evening, and the birds and jays are ^{singing} merrily, and fully as well, as if they had been practicing for the last six months. They do not appear to be the least worse. We have also had two thunder showers within the last three days. These are pretty good signs that old winter has taken his leave of us. He has paid us a pretty long visit. As he knows his long visits are very expensive, I think he intends to let our fruit alone, and not breathe his frosty blasts upon the blossoms this year. For as long as he was by, they thought it wise to dress themselves to ^{some} ~~fine~~ ^{fine} out, and now they cannot get ready before he will be far away.

Malcolm has gone this evening to the college to attend one of the Society meetings. The rest of the family, I believe have retired. They generally disappear about 8 o'clock, leaving me to my meditations. We all go to bed early, & get up early. In the morning, both Sequen & Ed want to have the satisfaction of warming my back before I get up.

I noticed in your letter that you called Anna, Annie. We supposed you thought it Scotch, but we thought it sounded Kentucky. Malcolm says he must be called Mackie.

I am afraid you ^{have} ~~not~~ succeeded no better in this, than Dr Phileo did with the musket,

Tuesday Apr. 25th I see from the papers, that a bill has passed both houses of Congress for the Relief of Mrs Emily Moore, widow of Capt. Moore. He no doubt, left her quite destitute.

I hope you are enjoying yourself much. We have delightful weather now, and the seeds we have planted are coming up finely. The Asparagus is beginning to come up, and I have cut a little but not enough for a meal. I intend to plant some potatoes tomorrow, would have done it this afternoon but a hard shower at noon, has made the ground too wet.

Wednesday, Apr. 26th Expected a letter to day, but none came. Your last was the first one as yet from Peach Orchard and was dated the 11th. We have nothing new or interesting to communicate. I asked Eddie just now what word he had to send to mother. He answered; Dandy boots. — Eey moore has read to me the first chapter of Ishu, and improves rapidly. — You see this letter has been on the stocks some time but as you have but a weekly mail, I have been in no hurry to finish it. Not knowing how long you calculate to remain at Peach Orchard, I hardly know where to direct this, but venture the "Peach Orchard," for if it should never reach you it will be no great loss. — Give much love and many kisses to my darling children, and remember to all. Tell Sophia that Susanna is well.

Your own dear husband H. W. Ambler

all the children but rather,
and you know she is the dearest I love
best of all. Her health is very good
and she is in very good spirits, look-
ing forward with much pleasure
to the time when she is to go for
you, and bring you home.

And I don't know how to write, but
my little Figgie told me I must
give her love to Sister Mamma.
She thinks a great deal of you
misses you very much. In fact
I think we all miss you & will
be very happy to welcome you
home again. I think you will
find that all the children have
improved during your absence.
You will see no change however
in the village. The growth of
our Robert is perceptible. A
few come, a few go; a few are
born & a few die. To be concluded
next week I suppose C. O. T.

Dear Robert Dec 17th 1844

My precious child
Mamma, Fiddie, & I
more I mean are in bed & asleep
I suppose; Mamma has gone to
a meeting of the Bible Society at
the Methodist Church; & I mean
Figgie, you & dear Mamma &
myself are sitting around the
table in the dining room. I am
waiting for my absent one, the rest
are reading. With the exception
of some jabbering Dutch in the
kitchen, the house is very quiet.
This is the most pleasant part
of the day to me & myself.
For now that the weather is cold
the children must necessarily
be confined to the house much
of the time, and as we cannot
expect them to sit like statues,
they must of course make, and

considerable noise, and at times it is rather disagreeable to the girls. When therefore the little ones are in bed, and all are quiet we can sit down in the evening by our own fireside and take soled comfort.

For some time past I have been reading Macaulay's History of England. To Mother, I in connection with it, Dickens' Child's History. A few days since Mother purchased the second volume of the latter, we are very much interested in them and hope by reading them aloud when Malcolm is with us to awake in him an interest in the study of History. Malcolm is very punctual in his attendance at school, & we hope that he is doing far better than he has ever done before. In fact if he continues in well

doing, we have reason to hope that he may yet be home-born. Mrs. Corbin, one of the teachers has organized a Society among the scholars for their mutual improvement. They write compositions & have a paper of which Malcolm is the editor. He takes much interest in it and I sincerely hope it will do him good. Some better has a good mind and he should cultivate it.

Our darling apple is a sweet child and is a great comfort to us. Seymour is a good boy, fond of his book and fond of play. Eddie is a darling and as great a scamp as ever. Freeman, sweet little son, is growing more & more interesting every day. He is the pet of the household. He is very bright & handsome. Ellen & Horace are very good children, & are improving rapidly in their studies. I believe I have spoken of

It writes in good spirits and
seems to be doing well. He is very
busy but is encouraged in his
labors by the thought that he
is making his parents comfort-
able. I have often heard it
said that a good wife makes a good
man. I think it will. He
thinks you are improving herself
and seems to feel that you are
about the best girl in the
world. He has had that opinion
for some time. I believe
the girls are getting on well
at school and how do you and
Ellie get along? On Wednesday
you will be four teen years old
you will feel very grand. I suppose
I shall think of you many times
my darling and that dear mother
pray for you too that as you grow
up you may grow in grace

My darling
Anne Arbor Dec 18th 1854

My darling,
Father has written you
a full sheet and perhaps you
will not want to read any
thing from me, but I will
write the rest of your letter
as I really want to hear
a talk with you. It is Mon-
day morning, quite cold, the
ground covered with snow.
Mother just washed fine faces
dressed fine heads, wrapped
up fine youngsters, and sent
them to school. Horace and
Seymour have drawn the
two girls and little Mort to
school in their sled, and
you may be sure they have
had a merry time. - Match
mother C. A. B.

has taken off his coat and rolled up his sleeves to prepare the school paper of which he is Editor, and father sits by the stove with one of the Congregational books in his hand learning how to make Gas-lumina. Mother has taken Sam to the stairs to help her do the work, and every now and then I hear his voice, Sophia is busy in the kitchen melting snow to wash with to-morrow, as the cistern has failed, and water is very scarce. If you remember you would run out every little while and dig a piece of the snow would n't you? Sophia and Susannah both like me to send their love to you. Father said I have been talking about you this morning and have concluded that you may give me a letter when you come home. I think you could get several letters if you would come even to the door yourself with a letter. I am great fun and you think so. Miss Laniel asked me the other day if I did not think you would be willing to. Does Miss Laniel think you improve? I think you do, and think we shall be a great deal better than we are now. I am not so fond of my little girl taking them all down as she says. You will never regret having been any from home this winter with you.

