



Horatio P. Van Cleve and
family papers.

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New Arbor Aug 22. 1862

My precious wife

It is the Sabbath, but I thought I ought to send you words to let you know particularly how the children are. They all appear to be remarkably well and happy, but this is a very handsome house I could not leave till Tuesday evening. If any thing should happen to detain you longer do not feel worried on my account. I take it for granted if any of you should be taken sick you will send me word immediately.

Lizzie wants me to teach her how to write to you. She sends her love to you all. Seymour Ellen & Hannah also send their love. Chick is getting along very well if we can judge from the amount he eats. Ellen appears to be as well as usual.

With Malinda & Anna for their father,
May God bless you my darling.

Your own dear devoted husband

A. P. Van Buren

per. It is a speck of butter to be had in town.

I suppose you have heard of the dreadful
calamity on Lake Erie, by which not less
than 300 ~~persons~~ ^{ships} were suddenly carried to a
premature grave before the bar of their Maker.

Mrs Charlotte D. Van Allen

Ann Arbor

Michigan

Beach Richard, a town a-
mong the knobs on the Big Sandy
in Kentucky. Friday evening
Feb 7 3rd 1854.

My own dear wife,

I wrote to you about last
Friday, at Cattleburg. On Friday evening
we left that City on the Steamer J. Scott and
about 1 o'clock the next day reached Louisville.
Owing to the high water we were obliged to re-
main there till Tuesday, when we came up on
horse back. I have travelled our roads be-
fore, but this road surpassed them all. I
had Sybil before me, and she found her-
self somewhat sore when we reached here.
We enjoyed our ride nevertheless, for it
was through a wild, romantic country,
inhabited, I should judge by a witch,
if not, romantic, people. Now the people here
is a mystery. You occasionally see a patch
of an acre or two that has been cultivated
and a few logs along the road, that you
would suppose would have puzzled Solo-
mon's workmen to transport thence over the

hills to the river. They are taken to the river, however, and sent down to Cincinnati where they are sold, and the men here live on the proceeds.

I have been much interested in Mr. Mellen's work. He has accomplished what very few could have done, or even have dared undertake single handed. He is now in Cincinnati, engaged in selling stock of the Peach Orchard Coal Company. I hope he may succeed in having all the shares taken. His boats got down safely this winter. Many of the Pittsburg boats were lost, and with them many lives. I hope the safe arrival of his boats will enable him to sell the stock of the Company.

Belle is by me writing to her husband. Lizzie is reading Lullaby Songs, and similar interesting and useful works. The younger children have gone to bed. Lizzie wishes me to tell you that she wants to see you very much, and sends much love. She loves you dearly, but does not appear to be at all homesick. I fear I shall feel somewhat homesick when I leave her, this darling child. May God bless & keep her

I think she will spend her time pleasantly here till you come for her. I expect to leave sometime next week, so that I can be in Cincinnati by Saturday night if possible. You might direct some at Cincinnati on the receipt of this. If I do not be there the letter could be forwarded some. — How long are we to be thus separated? I am tired of it. In fact it is really provoking and very inconsistent in Judge Litch, to feel any concern about it, but I cannot help it.

I am very anxious to learn ~~how~~ how you are prospering, and whether you all enjoy good health. Do the little ones remember us. I should think they would all miss our dear little Lizzie, very much.

Your last letter that I rec^d gave me good accounts of all. I trust the children are all striving to please you, ^{they} will remember that by pleasing you they will add to my happiness. Kiss them all for me.

I expect this letter will be taken to the mouth of the River tomorrow and mailed at Catlettsburg or somewhere else.

May God bless you all and keep you
from harm - Remember me your prayers
your absent husband and child.

Love our devoted husband
A. P. O. and love

Portage Lake July 29th 1854

My dear wife

I came here yesterday, and expect to enjoy the luxury of sleeping on a bed, a regular bed, for five or six nights. There is considerable romance in encamping in the woods and among the mosquitoes. It reads well, something like the stories of Indian Heroes, but when it comes to the reality of life, he is a poor miserable, cowardly, treacherous Savage. Encamping in the woods, is lying on the rough ground; sleeping two hours out of eight, with aching bones; eaten up with Mosquitos; and if you should accidentally catch a nap, waked up by some deer in a tent close to your own. But notwithstanding the dull romance of the affair we get along very well; enjoy good health and keep in fine spirits. I walk a great deal, but do not suffer from weariness or fatigue. Mosquitos are not quite as troublesome as they were a few weeks since, probably because we have killed so many of them. Flies and gnats are also less annoying, and the weather not so oppressive.

When this letter reaches you, we expect to be near the extremity of Keweenaw Point. We calculate to leave here Thursday next in a steamer if we can get her to leave us near Keweenaw Point as we have some work to do there. We will walk back, examining lands on our route, to Torch Lake which is but a short distance from here and across of this Lake. I am looking forward with much

August 1st Let me know how you get along with money matters. I fear if Mack & McKee & Hayward are paid up it will leave me a little to pay for the letter to pay

pleasure to our return here, for we then calculate to
start for home, and hope to see you all about the
20th of September, well and happy.

The last mail brought me no letter. I believe there
has been some change in the mail arrangements,
on which account they do not leave the Sault on the
same day they did formerly. I may get two next
week to pay for it. I take it for granted you are
all well, at least hope so, committing you to the
kind protecting care of our Heavenly Father.

Evening. I have just been in one of the mines. It takes
some time, and requires much hard labor, with the
expenditure of much money and a great deal of
patience to make mining profitable. A great deal
has been expended on this mine and they are just
now ready to realize some handsome returns for
their time, labor & patience. I hope they may be amply
rewarded. It will be some time however before I
will embark in such an adventure. Not that I
would discourage those who have capital to spare for
such speculations, but I think our funds can be bet-
ter employed. There is much risk in mining. Many
companies have been formed and after spending
20, 30, 40 or \$50,000 or more have abandoned all. Some-
times from having made a bad location; sometimes
from having employed ignorant superintendents; &
at others, lazy and dishonest ones. I was interested with
my visit to this mine, and saw considerable copper in
the rocks and was glad that the stockholders had

a fair prospect of doing well. But you will say: this
may all be interesting to Copper men, but I am not
one of them, and I wish you would change the subject.
Well I will change it, and tell you that it is now
about bed time, so good night darling and may
God bless you and my little ones. I will try to
write tomorrow. Our mail leaves early
Monday morning. The letter you directed to Rockland
I rec^d as I told you before, but the one you directed
"Some where else" will go to the dead letter office I expect.
Those you have directed to this place I presume will
all reach me. I expected to have heard of Malcolm's
arrival long ere this, You must give me a full ac-
count of his visit, if you have not already. I am an-
xious to know what he thinks of his children's improvement.
My opinion is, that he had abundant reason to be gratified
with the change he saw. The children must have been
highly delighted to see their father, although Holmes's recol-
lection of him must have been very faint, and Grace
had lost all. — No doubt I will have much to talk
about when I come home; but, of course, you will have
to draw it out of me by piecemeal, and it may require
weeks to learn all. But you will have patience with
me; won't you, my precious darling? But I said "good
night;" did I not? So go to bed, remember me in your
prayers, and have a comfortable sleep. I will try to
pray for you and my children. I trust they have all
prayed for me before going to bed. I think of them a great
deal and do not want them to forget me.

Wednesday afternoon, July 30th 1854. I begin for the doctor
to day. When we leave here, we will not return again.
I will direct my letters hereafter to Eagle River, Lake Su-
perior, Michigan. I hope you have been able to spend this
day more profitably than I have. Much of it has been spent
by me. I read a Chapter this morning in Lays work, with
much interest, and would give hope, with some little profit,
but I must morn over some misspent time, for which I
have no excuse, for I have the Bible and good books at com-
mand, and opportunities for meditation and reflection. Now
little of my time do I spend in meditating upon the good-
ness and love of our Heavenly Father, and in reflecting upon my
many sins, my misspent time and talents. If God were
strict in marking my iniquities I could never stand before him.
My only hope is in his mercy through Christ our Savior. I have just
finished, in camp, reading the Gospel by Luke. The more I read
the Gospel, the more precious they are to me. Many of the Psalms
are particularly comforting to me. I have a choice among
them. Some appear to be written expressly for such as I am.
I hope my dear children will love God's holy book. When you were
absent I used to read the "Book of Day" (I think it was that) to the little
ones, and they were much interested, and would listen very atten-
tively. I suppose Lizzie & Seymour can read very well by this time
and understand what they read. I had almost taught Eddie
to read ~~in~~ words of two & three letters. I would not send him
to school but let him learn what he can at home. When
I come home I will try to teach him. I know he will love to read
to his father. Ellen must have got far ahead of Lizzie in her
studies. She was studying Physiology at one time before I left
home; I thought it a study rather advanced for one of her years
and attainments. But this is an age of Progress. At least
so people say. Chick was never particularly attached to
his book, yet I think he may make a scholar. Sam's
talents, I presume, are not well developed yet, but no
doubt, he is at present the way of the family and makes some
sport for you all. - Malcolm no doubt is attentive to his busi-
ness. Whatever he does, he must do well. Anna must not
set her heart on going to Cincinnati. We must think about it.

Eagle River, June 28th 1854

My dear son Malcolm

I rec^d a letter from Mother today, and it made my heart beat with joy to learn from it that you were doing well. I had feared that you loved study so little, and were so anxious to be making money, that you had given up your books and had gone into some business. How I love to see a boy anxious to make himself useful, to himself, to his parents, & to the world. But there are various degrees of usefulness in this life, and we cannot easily attain to the highest degree without improving the talents our kind Heavenly Parent has so lavishly bestowed upon us. Seeds have been planted in our hearts, which will never produce much unless they are carefully cultivated, and all weeds, thistles, that would choke them. So my dear boy, with the talents God has given us, they must be carefully tended and cultivated to enable them to grow and become useful, and you must diligently root out all bad

habits that would tend in any way to weaken or injure your talents. May God bless you my dear boy and may you ever be a comfort to your parents. — Do not forget the garden. Cultivate carefully every spot in it, and while you are working in it, let it be a lesson to you. I hope you have taken good care of it thus far. Thank you for the cabbage & tomato plants and sowed potatoes in all the vacant spaces. There is a great abundance of seed that I saved with my own hands. — I think you are old enough to write to me and I hope soon to see a letter, neat, well written and well spelled, filled with interesting intelligence from Malcolms to his own loving Father.

~~My dear daughter Anna~~

Mother says you are industriously studying History. It is a most interesting and useful study, commencing with the oldest History written, the Bible. With History you should study Geography. Whenever you read of any country, look upon your map and find

it, and fix its locality in your mind. It will then be associated with your story, you will know where you are and will not easily forget it. Look now upon the map of Michigan; on the South Shore of Lake Superior you will see Keweenaw Point. A long point running out in the Lake & forming Keweenaw Bay. Yesterday I left Marquette near the mouth of Camp River, which is a little East of Keweenaw Bay, crossed the mouth of the Bay to Keweenaw Point, stopped to word at Copper Harbor, A. land passengers & freight at Eagle Harbor, and after a very pleasant trip landed at Eagle River just as it was getting dark, that is about 9 o'clock, for the sun rises about 4 & sets at 8 and twilight lasts a long time. Eagle River is a stream dignified with the name of river and perhaps when the snows melt in the spring a great torrent comes dashing over the rocks from the hills, but now it is not more than three times as large as Wards river at Ann Arbor. To morrow we expect to leave for Portage Lake. The next page I must leave for the other children. I will try ^{to write} you a long letter one

These days. Be a good girl and may God
bless you my dear child. So prays your
Father. You must write to me.

To my dear little daughter Lizzie,
I have not seen you ⁱⁿ ~~your~~ long time
my precious child, and father long to
press you to his bosom to tell you that he
did not forget you while you were on the
big Sunday, but that he thought of you &

and desire you father again. I am sure
that you were not one bit sorry to get home
and see your Mother; and that you would
be right glad to see father again and put
your arms around his neck & kiss him.

May God bless you & take care of you my
dear child I make you a good girl & a
comfort to mother and to your loving Father.

To my dear little son Seymour.

I suppose you have been times a
going to school with Lizzie & then I wish to

his Holy Spirit will make you a good child.
You must love God & keep his commandments.
Remember the Sabbath day to keep it Holy. From
my window I can now see men working on
the dock, loading a scow with copper to take
to a steamboat that is coming and is in sight.
The steamboat cannot come up to the dock.
These people are all breaking the Sabbath. Good
bye my darling child. May God bless you.
So prays your loving Father.

NY
NY
NY

Mrs. C. Van Alen

Care of H. P. Van Alen

New York

Mich.



Peach Orchard March 15th 1853

Dear Charlotte

Your letter of Feb 24th would have been answered much sooner, had I known what to write, — but Belle arrived from Cincinnati about the same time, the baby quite sick with a cold, and almost immediately we were all taken sick except Mr Metten and Ellen — Belle has had a very severe attack of Jaundice, and is only now just beginning to recover, my cold has been very severe, and I hardly yet dare venture out of doors — You have had a bad winter indeed, poor little Lizzy, we are all very thankful that she is spared to you, tell her that I shall not forget her dishes or Ellen's dolls when I come — I had thought of visiting you in April, and remaining until the first of July, but since I have been sick, am afraid to venture your climate in the early Spring, shall now be obliged to defer coming until Malcolm ~~is~~^{visits us} ~~is~~ ^{is} very sanguine in believing that he will be here the coming summer, should he not, if my health is good, I will try and come during the warm weather but can't say exactly when now — I am glad that Mr VanClove is turning his attention to Engineering, I think he may do well at that business, there is so much employment for good Engineers now all over the country — Am very sorry that I cannot be with you during your confinement

but since I have had these severe colds find it
necessary to be very careful, and should I come to
Michigan, and be sick in consequence, you, instead of having
any assistance, ^{you} would have another invalid on your hands.
I do not feel ^{as} badly as I should, because you are now
~~at~~ among kind friends, good physicians, and Nurses.
I want you to be very careful, that you may be quite
well before you begin to exert yourself, after your
confinement. I enclose \$20 which I wish you to
appropriate towards making yourself comfortable
knowing that you have so many demands upon your
purses, that there is danger of your neglecting yourself -
consider that the better care you take of your health, the
sooner you will be able to attend to your family -
just got a letter from Mary they are all well -
how is Malcolm, and Anna, they must have improved
very much since I saw them - All the children must
have changed very much - am glad to hear such a
fine account of dear Ellen, Grandma does not forget
any of them - Ellen is glad to hear of Lizzy H. Blair
my love to Mrs Hunter when you see her, and to
all my ~~Am~~ - Boston friends - All the congregation
of St. Pauls continue to be pleased with Mr Clark -
he was presented by the people with a tea service
of silver - Mr Mellen has a seat in that Church,
and is very much pleased, - I can write no more
now as the gentleman who takes our letters leaves in the
morning, and I must write ^{two} more letters before
he leaves, I shall write again soon your mother with affection

[Dec. 30, 1853?]

Dayton Dec 28th

My dear wife

We reached here
last evening all safe. Mary
is very happy with her little
cousins and looks very well.
We had not travelled three
miles in the stage before she
was taken sick from the motion
of the stage and vomited.
She felt quite sick till we
got to Knoxville where we
rested and dined. A cup of
tea. She was so weary and
exhausted when she reached Toledo.

The motion of the stage the
day before made her sick.
In the afternoon she slept about
an hour and woke up feeling
very comfortable. She was per-
fectly well when she reached

now. I cannot bear
any traces of that suspicion
in his face that necessary
to guard our friends here
he will

~~be~~ will about five
miles last night.

How much love to Mother
John & all my dear
children

Sissy sends her love,
I wish you could see her
right soon that summer
the school is due to
reopen here.

God bless you my dear
one.

Yours ever
C. H. Van Buren



the children
will feel
this letter
as soon as
he arrives
in Cincinnati
the box may
not be there
there for
two weeks
at me
know if the
children get
it or not

Pruch Orchard Sept 18th 1852

Dear Charlotte

Mr. Mellen has just got home after an absence of almost eight weeks, left his trunk at the mouth of Sandy to come up on a boat and the men failed to bring it, which we much regret as among other things which it contained was a letter from you, we are obliged to put up with the disappointment as it will be a week or more now before we can hope to receive it—

Harry has just returned to Cincinnati, has been spending the summer here. Ellen is with me I am sending a box of things for Ellen and Harriet, what I send from here such as I could get at a country store & paper for Ellen (an embroidered bag which I will send within 3 or 4 weeks). — 4 shirts for Harriet & sack aprons, which I thought he could wear over his cloths — 4 Linen aprons for Ellen & petticoat brown, what is left of that material, will make her bottom as suit, I put some brown cotton in the bundle which will do to line the pantaloons, two pieces of cotton flannel, 6 yds each, for drawers &c & and sways I could not get finer, but it is the best

in the store; two night-gowns for Ellen—

I send two dresses one brown which will do for fall and one green, which will be very warm for winter—shall write Mary to purchase a handsome dress for Ellen Cloak, and bonnet also for chick materials for a suit of cloths over coat and lap, Cloak and overcoat to be made at a venture and sorry that we cannot make up all the things as that is half the comfort to you have or missing sticks to take, but as I have not other measure shall ~~not~~ enclose \$5 for that purpose—Mary left with me this green spotted dress, thought it might make Ellen a fall or spring dress or some other use you might think best to put it to, the pair of brown gaiters ~~from Ellen's~~ ^{from Ellen's} ~~upward~~ ^{upward} I thought would make Peggy too, and that will be like ~~when Ellen wears hers,~~

but Mr. Mellen is obliged to go directly back to Cincinnati, and I am afraid that no good opportunity of sending the box will not soon again offer and had intended to have him send stockings for all the little folks, but have been disappointed in getting proper yarn, hope should I live to see another fall, I shall be more like a grandmother as it respects stocking

Ellen sends this petition which is useful to her and may answer some purpose I mention every trifling thing that I may know ~~that~~ ^{if} all reaches you safely—while thinking of it, has Mr. Lincoln made you the payment due the first of August? he is so careless (you must keep the account) and has so much business that ^{he} never remembers any thing unless reminded two or three times.

I wish very much that I could be with you a month or two, but must give it up for this fall, Better little boy grows finely, she calls him Piskey after Mr. Mellen's friend—all of us are in good health, your sisters send love and good wishes will answer your letters as soon as it arrives—Annie is now looking delightfully I often think with pleasure of our pleasant walks last fall—remember me to all the ~~many~~ friends—hope the children are well—when you can write a few lines to me, or let Mr. Mellen or Anne, that we may hear from you often—

My love to Mr. Van Cleve and the children and my remembrance of kisses for the little ones from Grandmother—God bless my dear child, may our good God ever have you in His holy keeping, prays ever your affectionate

Mother,
Chas. Clarke





Horatio P. Cleve
Care of J. D. Phillips Esqr
Dayton
Ohio

Strm. Arbor. Feb 14th 1873

Dear Father

After partaking of a hearty supper and going to hear brother Biglow preach, I now take up my mother's gold pen to write you a few words of nonsense if you are a mind to call it so. Aunt is reading Estlin the bishop aloud for the benefit of Mr. Bailey. A gift came out yesterday and is going to be back in the morning he was going to come out here to work for Mr. G. but as soon as his employer found out his intention he put him into the job office at ten dollars a week and no night or Sunday work so he could have time to study. Now I am going to tell you what I am trying to do I study all day and study hours every night and devote one hour in reading Robt and am very much interested in it. Now is my dear little Lizzy is she well the dear little thing but I suppose you are not with her now. The hams are smoked and are disappearing very rapidly.

Your dear Son Malcolm C. Vanlee

My dear Husband,

The above opinion speaks for itself I send it "unvarnished unannounced with all its imperfections on its head." I feel very sorry that

I wrote you such a low-spirited letter last week
but you have forgiven me on that, and I feel in
better spirits now as I am in better health. I felt
that I did not deserve the good cheering letters I
rec'd from you last week, but if I did not get any
thing but what I deserve, I don't know what would
become of me. I enquire that note to Henry and
he did answer respectfully, that is he promised to do
so, and I think he had probably written to you
about it by this time. You have made an abund-
ant provision for my comfort, and I am only a
friend you have purchased yourself to accomplish
it. But I will make it up to you some day.
I carried those Pamphlets and the accompanying
letter to Mr. Wookies and I hope it will spur the
good people up to build a decent school-house
and support a good school. I believe our winter
will break up early, and I am right glad of it.
It looks very much like spring this morning.
You say possibly you may get business in Kentucky.
I think I should like it very much but do not
give myself any uneasiness about it only want
to know pretty soon where you are likely to be
settled. Mr. Burnett this afternoon
asked very affectionately after you, did not know
that Sarah Burnett had married Ed. Boyden
and that Mr. Burnett was left without any heirs
dread.

We were not astonished to learn that Mary was
opposed to Edger's change of sentiment, but I think
by hope she may look upon it in a reasonable light.
Perhaps she may have her eyes opened yet
to see her extreme error, and come back to us
as I am sure we shall be glad to see her.
I look forward with much delight the time
when he can claim his wife. He can't be so
happy before for years but that soon he
will be perfectly happy, he is perfectly willing to pay
me my glories, and if you know the scenes I have
passed through and the letters I have written
since this affair was first agitated you
would think I had earned two or three
pains. I am glad to hear such good accounts
of Fizzie she is a darling child, and I long to
take her in my arms. I shall write to her to-
day. I trust we may have a pleasant visit
to Kentucky, it seems like a great undertaking
and I shall feel great anxiety till it is over.
Mr. Bailey will go with us as he wants to
make a visit to Kentucky, he is a delightful young
man and will be a very pleasant companion
for us. He has about secured a doctor for Frank
Richard, a Dr. Marsh a married man and
we are not sure yet but I expect Mary goes

teacher. We are grateful to Mrs. J. C. Gray
Alfred I hope he has recovered by this time
Mattie Harkins wrote to him today. You will
have a pleasant visit in Leighton. You must
give much love to all the folks for me.
I often think of them and always with
much pleasure. How long is it since you
were able to remain in Cincinnati when you
go down? I sometimes fear that under the pre-
sent circumstances they will not be very warmly
welcomed at Mansfield. How nice it would be
if we could better make the most of our visit
getting in Leighton on our return from Cin-
cinnati. You could meet me in Cincinnati
and see us all and then we could pass on
along to Poplar Orchard. But we can say
no plan yet. Circumstances will guide us
as to what it is best for us to do. We receive
the National Era regularly. How are you?
I hope Malcolme is doing well now. He seems
to be studying. The rest are all getting along
well. Cliff brought Annie out some new mu-
sic which she is learning it. Write soon and
let us know all about your plans. We hope
to be good and not get too spirited. You
must pray for me dear husband.
All love from your own dear wife
L. C. Van Hook

Recd Jan - 5th 1855



Miss Anna C. Van Cleave
Care of S. D. Lincoln Esq
Cincinnati
Ohio.

Ann Arbor Dec 31. 1854

My precious daughter, my own darling child, How much we have thought of you during the past week, and how much I have wished that your dear mother could have been with you to comfort you, and Grandma Finkle Mellen & all of our afflicted family; for although she has been almost overwhelmed by this terrible blow, she is an excellent comforter, she is so good.

We are waiting anxiously to hear from you again, and hope that we may receive a letter to which you will tell us all the particulars of our dear Sister's last sickness, and telling us how Grandma & Mr Mellen & all the family are. Oh what a loss to poor uncle Mellen & those dear motherless children. May God bless & comfort them. He has afflicted

men, he only can comfort them.
He has taken from the little ones, their
dearest mother; they will be deprived
of their pious counsellor; May he watch
over them and keep them from evil
and lead them through life in the
ways of wisdom & truth.

This year was closing on us bright-
ly & very pleasantly. Mother & I
were enjoying ourselves much; our
children were in good health; we
were in good health; our friends were
all well; we heard good & cheering
news from them constantly; we were
anticipating much happiness from
seeing them all next summer;
but suddenly this bright prospect
is overclouded, and now all is
gloom. Now true it is, that we
know not what a day may
bring forth. My dear child
let us "lay up treasures in Heaven
where ^{neither} moth nor rust corrupt &

when thieves cannot break through
nor steal."

New Year Day 1885.

I intended to have written
you a good long letter, but have
been much interrupted.

We are all well to day,
Cliff walked in last night
while I was writing to you, &
has just left. It is now nearly
time for the mail to close.

Give a great deal of love to
all.

Cliff wishes to be remem-
bered.

May God bless you with
his child

Your own truly devoted
Father,

A. P. Van Cleave
Mother will come in about three
weeks. We rec'd a paper from
Cincinnati to day with a notice
of dear Aunt Melly's death.

inertious, and as full of mischief
as possible. Our holiday week has
been a sad one my child, but I
trust God will bless it to you.
I am sure you had spirit
and cheerfulness and visiting
for you know we are told "it is
better to go to the house of mourning
than to the house of feasting".
My friends here have all shown
great sympathy with me in my
trouble. Many have called to see
me, and it has been really gratifying
to hear those whom I love so much
showing their sympathy. I have
been very sad and try to comfort
my poor boy & pity his mother's
condition. I want to hear all about
your little Quennie, and how she
seemed to feel the probable death
of her dear little brother
and Ellen for me remember me
kindly to Uncle Ben. Give much
love to Aunt Mary and take
a large share for yourself. My
dearest love to you and to all.

Ann Arbor Dec 31st 1854

My darling daughter,

This is the last
night of the old year. It came
very pleasantly to us all, and we
have enjoyed it very much, but it
has gone so fast & so sadly for us all.
I feel that we have been afflicted
very heavily, but try to be resigned
knowing that God has done it for
some wise purpose of his own, but
the thought that I shall never see
my much loved sister again pains
my heart very much and I feel
almost overwhelmed with grief. I know
you pray for me darling and it is
a great comfort to feel that you do. May
we all be more and more united in
the world, and let our affections
more entirely be things above.

I am extremely anxious to hear
from you again and am much
in hopes of getting a letter from
some of you to-morrow. I want so
much to know if Grandma is
to remain in Cincinnati and
length of time, and all the par-
ticulars of dear Aunt Belle's death.
I have looked over all her letters to-
day, and feel more and more
assured as I read them, that she
had given her heart to her Saviour,
with whom I doubt not she now
is. Let us try to love the dear Saviour
more and imitate our ever-loving
to be more like him. How dear
Aunt Mary? Try in every possible
way to lighten her grief, and com-
fort her as much as you can.
You must pray God to adminis-
ter consolation to her and bestow

upon her rich spiritual blessings.
I had an excellent letter yesterday
from Mary, and also one from
Ed. Most told me he had written
to you telling you of his bright pros-
pects, and how pleasantly he and
Ed are situated. Let us be thank-
ful for this dear. They both attend
Mr Beecher's Church, and hear a cel-
lent sermon. They go there every
Sunday. Love pray for dear Most
often. You must do so with faith
and child, and beseech God to give
him a heart to love him more
and love him better than he
has ever done before. Hannah
and the children are very bright
and happy. Looking forward to
seeing "dear Hannah" with much
pleasure. Sammy is daily becoming
more lovely, is very quick in his

When I write again, let me know to what post office you have sent letters, for
I do not like to leave them in care of the post office or to Rochester.

Portage Lake, - Lake Superior.
Sabbath Morning, July 2nd 1854.

My dear wife.

It would be a great gratification to me, to spend this day with my wife and children, but as it is not in my power to do so, I must be satisfied with thinking about you and writing to you. You may have the privilege of attending church to day, a privilege that I will be denied, but I must conclude from your account of the interest you take in the services, and of the instruction and comfort you derive from them, that I need not envy you. I fear that I may become so accustomed to the heathenish life we lead in the woods, that I will soon be reconciled to live without the privileges of a Christian community, entirely out of sound of a church bell. I cannot live without my bible, however, for it is a great comfort to me, and although I cannot enjoy the society of my wife and children I can think of you and pray for you, believing that you also think of me and pray for me. The Sabbath is a blessed institution, and is a proof of the wisdom and love of our Heavenly Father; and it is gratifying to see it observed throughout all this region, as a day of rest, although it may not be kept altogether in a Christian manner. Some of the mining companies furnish alcohol & spirits for their workmen, and if any of them wish to have a jollification they must go some distance from the mining locations to find the materials. I wish Mr. Wells would adopt the same plan. He would be the gainer by it, if in nothing more, certainly, in the quiet he would

enjoy in his own village. Yesterday and the day before my labors led me past a drinking establishment about two miles from here, and we could hear the noise of bacchanalians long before we reached the house. They were far from any other human habitation and none could be disturbed by their revelries. So it would be at Peach Orchard, if Mr. Mellow did not furnish his men liquor they would be compelled to go off when they wished to have a spree, and he would not be annoyed by their rows.

When I last wrote to you, which was just a week ago I was at Eagle River and about to start for this place. We coasted in a small fishing boat from Eagle River to the Portage; crossed the Portage, which is about a mile and a half, on foot, and came down the Lake in a bark canoe. We had a safe passage across Lake Superior, though it was somewhat tedious and monotonous to be confined to a fishing boat some seven or eight hours, and still more uncomfortable to be packed in a bark canoe with ten others, with no room to turn oneself. We left Eagle River on Monday morning at 11 o'clock, and reached here at breakfast time on Tuesday. I expected to find letters from you but was disappointed. The only letter I have had from you or from home or any where else, since I left home was yours of Sept 19th that I got at Eagle River. I have sent to Ontonagon and to Rockland, but have received none, from either place, still I think there must be letters there for me.

I find here a young physician from New York City, named Agnew, not related to the professor, though he has met him at his father's. A very interesting and intelligent man, and I think a Christian. He went out with us one day in one of our excursions, and proved a very agreeable companion. It is quite a treat to me to find in this country a man whose whole soul is not encased in copper, and who above all is a Christian.

I have told you that the laborer comes from his toil here on the Sabbath. I believe it is true as far as the common laboring man is concerned, but many of the principal men in the mining establishments are not ready to do business on the Sabbath as any other day. They would not lose the opportunity of making a dollar on this day, if one should offer. But this is not all; the example they set is an injury to the whole community. The children are not taught to observe this day as the Lord's, and they may be seen in their little boats sailing about the Lake for pleasure, while the father is on a steamer, on some speculating excursion. The more I see of Sabbath breaking, the more I feel the importance of teaching our dear children by word and example, "to remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy." I would be glad if they could hear sermons that would edify them, or at least, that they could understand. You will read to them and instruct them. Say now was very much interested in the "Pass of Day" or one of that series. I suppose by this time he reads quite well. How does Eddie get along with his book? Does he come to you every day to say his lesson?

He is quite fond of his book when I was at home. I
would have been coming to him but had not left home
a dear sweet boy and must not forget his father.
I should like much to see him and hear him
talk. By the time I return he will be quite a doctor.
Tell Malala he must be mistaken about my pet.
All my children are very fond of him but that
he has been petted more than any other, inasmuch as
he is the eldest and undoubtedly has had a longer time
to be petted than. There is a boy here about Malala's
age who was on our party, but found the service too
hard, who has now got a situation in the office here
as book keeper, and will do well if he attends
to his business. He could not have got the situation
if he had not been prepared. My Malala fits himself
for business he can readily get it. I believe he would
have studied with a good will when I was at home
if he had known the influence I had over
him and to ridicule the counsel I gave him. He is
disposed to do as I wished. A certain young friend
has become a trader and no doubt is a good worker-
man, but I doubt much whether he ever gets above
a journey man printer, unless he leaves the business and
goes at something else. I hope Anna will apply herself
to her books and attend to them faithfully. If she be-
comes well acquainted with History she will find it
a great accomplishment, and a source of great grati-
fication through life. And what is my Lizzie doing?
Are she & Ellen studying hard. She has had a good
day holiday and must now make up for lost time.
Chick must be a good boy, and give Aunt Charlotte no
trouble. Kiss all the darling children for me and
may God bless you all. Ever remember your prayers
and think of me as your devoted husband N. H. Kneeland

When I left on my Tuesday
morning on the little ship
from and I have been told
I have been told I have been told
I have been told I have been told

I have been told I have been told
I have been told I have been told
I have been told I have been told
I have been told I have been told
I have been told I have been told

I have been told I have been told
I have been told I have been told
I have been told I have been told
I have been told I have been told
I have been told I have been told

Each box and I have been told
to see them I have been told
I have been told I have been told
I have been told I have been told
I have been told I have been told

I have been told I have been told
I have been told I have been told
I have been told I have been told
I have been told I have been told
I have been told I have been told

I have been told I have been told
I have been told I have been told
I have been told I have been told
I have been told I have been told
I have been told I have been told

Amherst Mass. Ann Arbor Apr. 7th 1854

My own dear wife

I received your letter from Clear
land, yesterday, and was happy to learn that
you were, so far on your way in safety, and
had had a pleasant trip across the Lake.
If the calculations that were made while you
were here were correct, you will reach Port
Dickens this evening, and I trust be able
to clasp in little treasure to your bosom.
Fold the darling in your arms and give
her many kisses for her father.

I wrote you on Wednesday and enclosed
a letter to your mother from my friends.

found me your son Stewart, who
I also enclose. I hope you received them
all. Our little ones here are all well.
After dinner today, they amused them-
selves burning rubbish, grass, weeds, &c.
in the yard, and were very happy. Little
Edmund as busy as any one, and was
delighted when he could add a hand-
ful to the burning pile. He is growing so
fat, you will hardly know him in six weeks.
Leymore still looks very thin, and came
from school yesterday sick at the stomach.

after parting company with his dinner, he went off to play as usual. I try to keep them in the yard and not allow them to play in the street, where they learn many rude habits. Malcolm is well, and all are well, but the house is very desolate without you.

W Bailey came over today and will remain with us till he goes home. He has taken possession of Anna's deserted room. Kiss the darling girl for me, and tell her to take good care of dear little Siggie who has been so long from us. - How did Sam like traveling. Was he a good boy? did he make for you much trouble?

It is Sunday here all the week, with this difference. It is a ^{very} busy day in the Sabbath.

Saturday Evening I wrote. The dear little boys have just gone to bed. Eddie and Seymour are singing Yankee Doodle. Malcolm is sitting by me reading a newspaper. W Bailey has just come in. Malcolm & I have been gardening today. We planted two beds of top onions, and some Spinach, parsnips, radishes, lettuce, peppergrass, & I believe something else, though mist. (It may have been some flower seed, a half a bed) - I have also trimmed most of the currant bushes. Seymour gathered up most of the branches & put them in a pile for

a bonfire. The children have all been very good today. It has been a source of much happiness to me to see them enjoying themselves. W Bailey promised to help me make garden today, and did not do it. You must remember that against time. I had forgotten it but he just reminded me of it. - Sophie has been waiting for us today. I went to market and got some meat & potatoes & such things this evening and bought some tea. The freight train has just come in, and our darling little ones have sunk quietly into the arms of Morpheus. - Now after reading all this news, do not say that I never tell you anything. - Seymour has been very well today. He is a darling child, & his children are all impatient to see him.

With love I want to see dear little Siggie. She must be prepared to be hugged and kissed till she is tired, when she comes home. I believe however that the most that Eddie thinks about, is his Handy boots. - And now my precious one do you think we miss you any? We think of you and talk of you. We wish you to take your time and have a pleasant visit. I trust we will get along comfortably here, and have every thing attended to, ^{as} you would wish. I do not wish you to trouble yourself about those you have left at home.

4

Take good care of yourself and the precious
ones you have with you. Whenever you write, be
particular to let me know Anna's health is.
Did the darling child enjoy the journey. She is
old enough now to see much that is inter-
esting in such a trip. She must write to me
and tell me all that interest her. I will
now bid you good night, and may God bless
I keep you my darling. — My impression is
that you did not reach Reed Orchard till this
evening. I will look for a letter from Pittsburgh
on Monday, and for one from Catlettsburg on
Tuesday or Wednesday. Good night.

Monday, Dec. 10th Hard rain last evening. Mr Carter
had but a small audience. The ladies of
the choir, as well as the best of the society, were
present. The service was very beautiful. The choir
sang beautifully. The service was very beautiful.

morning, but it melts as fast as it falls.
And now my dear wife, what do you think of
Kentucky. I trust you are spending your time very
pleasantly, enjoying the society of your friends.
I will expect so long an interesting from you in
a short time, for your letters are always inter-
esting, and you will have a great deal to write
about. I am anxious to hear how many of the
good friends of Ellen. I hope they will not feel
towards you for going with your Mother & I by the
way of Pittsburgh. May I hope will remember that
she is now a Roman Catholic. It does
not interrupt the harmony existing between her and the
rest of her family, notwithstanding they regret the change.

Anne Arbor Tuesday May 16th 84

My dear wife

In past 2 o'clock P.M. I rec^d a letter from you yesterday, dated Peach Orchard May 14th and this morning one from Cincinnati dated May 13th Postmarked 14th. I am glad to learn that you are all well and happy, and enjoying yourselves. I hope you will take your time, and enjoy the society of your friends as much as possible, for it may be long before you will be able to visit them again, but I hope not as long as you were in making this.

Dr Douglass called on me this morning to get me to accompany him to the Lake Superior Country, and I have consented to go. He is engaged in an exploring expedition and wishes me to assist him. My salary may be from \$3. to \$3.50 per day and perhaps expenses paid. He expects to go to Detroit tomorrow and ~~can~~ tell when he comes back and can let me know definitely when he comes back. If nothing happens to hinder, we may leave early next week; and may not be able to return before the 1st of October. I should like dearly to see you before I go, but at the same time

do not wish to hurry you, away from your friends; for as I said before it may be long before you may be able to visit them again. Something may intervene to hinder my going, but at present he expects to go and expects me to accompany him, and tells me that he does not think he will be able to start before the first of next week, but calculates to start then. In my last letter, I made some remarks about purchasing presents for the children; I felt very poor when I wrote, and had perhaps good reason, I do not feel quite so poor to day, and wish you to do as you think best about it. Mr Van Geisen is making a pair of shoes for Eddie that perhaps will do better for winter weather than ~~any other boots~~; You might bring him something that would be more useful just now and please him just as well. — If I go on this Lake Superior Expedition, and I leave it all to our Heavenly Father, I do not know when, nor how often I can hear from you, for I think it probable that Post Offices and Uncle Sam's mail carriers are scarce in that region, where we will be obliged to pack our provisions and sleep on the ground or on the soft side of a rock, with mosquitoes singing our lullaby. Mosquitoes, gnats, and sandflies are so unacquainted with man in that region, that their tenaciousness is said to be shock-

ing, ^{to our feelings} — I have much that I wish to say to you, but I must bring this to a close for the mail. — If you do not meet me at Station (and I do not think I could go there to meet you if I leave here the first of the week) your better plan would be to get your breakfast on the boat and have your baggage taken from the boat to the Cars. In all probability they will give you your breakfast if you offer to pay them for it, although it may not be their custom. It will be much more pleasant for you and save you from the expense of sandwiches and baggage Cars. There is considerable complaint about the impositions practiced by stage drivers &c. I think it is customary for those who are going on the car to take breakfast on the boat by paying for it, but I am not positive.

Tell my dear little children that their letters gratified me much. Kiss them for me. Remember me to Mary & the children, Mr Lincoln & Mr Mellor, and may God bless you my darling of darlings.

Your own devoted husband
H. P. Van Geisen.

Ann Arbor April 3rd 1854

My own precious one.

I suppose you are now
(8 o'clock A.M.) on a Steamer on the Ohio
unless you were obliged to wait for the
regular Packet. I have been thankful that
the weather has been so pleasant since
you left. I trust you have had a com-
fortable trip thus far, and that you will
reach Peach Orchard without any acci-
dent. May God protect you my darling.

I came home the evening we parted
and you may readily suppose the house
looked desolate the next morning, and
continues to look so. Six out of a fami-
ly of fourteen, leaves eight. We get along
quietly & smoothly. The children are
well and go to school. Seymour and
Eddie sleep with me. When Eddie wakes
during the night, he calls for me, and in-
quires if I am in bed with him. He has
no notion of being cheated out of his sleep
with father. Being assured that all is
right, he immediately goes to sleep an-
gain. He and Seymour are about comfort.
Mr. Tamm was elected Mayor by a ma-
jority of 100 over Dr. Allen. Young was elected

I have not time to write you this for
mistakes.

Justice of the Peace by a majority of 125.
It is said that there was quite an exciting
time during the election. We think we have
gained quite a victory, as the Sacs have
claimed a majority of about 80 in the City
and we have beaten them by 34 on the May
the much for Politics. - Sam Arbo has not
changed much since you left, but it
is dreadfully dull to me. - Malcolm saw
a notice in the Epilante paper that J. W. Van
Cleve wanted a smart, active boy, in
his store, and immediately wrote to William
offering his services.

Afternoon. John was in town today. The ad-
vertisement we saw in the papers was one of
William's performances. John wants some one of
experience in his store. John was elected
Superior in Epilante, and Mr. Bennett
has been elected in Leis.

I trust you are now on your way down
the Ohio. May God protect you from harm, and
speed you on your way to our darling Lizzie.
I sincerely hope you may see her by Friday
evening. Give her a great many kisses
for her father, and squeeze her as kind
as she can endure it. The precious lamb.
How much I wish to see her! How did
Sam and I stand the journey? I hope Anna has
not caught more cold than both for me.

I hope you were able to write to me from
Pittsburgh, for I am very impatient to hear from
you. - Have they been successful in their mining
operations this winter? I hope to hear that Mr
Mellen has succeeded to his beauty Center
for he has labored hard.

Did you find Belle & the children well?
Has Lizzie grown strong? I want you to
write at least a page about Lizzie, because
she has been absent from us so long. It
seems like years, instead of months. Did
I give a faithful description of the Sandy?

Have you learned anything more partic-
ular about Mary's feeling towards Ellen?
Did she take offense at her going by the way
of Pittsburgh? How did Mother stand the jour-
ney? Did you have any trouble with your
baggage? Give me a particular account
of all your journey. Did your funds hold
out? Just as I was leaving you on the
boat you wished me to give an exact
account of what I had paid for Mother & Ellen.

On Rail Road to Detroit	\$ 2.00
At Hotel in Detroit	3.25

Fare from Detroit to Pittsburgh 10.00 = \$ 15.25

The landlady saw twenty dollars at the hotel
and five on the boat. I used the five and
gave you the twenty for her, on the boat. I
trust you understood it.

Mrs Shaddock called to see you on Monday.
I have not yet called on Mrs Carter; I called
on Mr Bailey yesterday but he was not in.
In the afternoon he called on me; he had
been to Lexington, and thinks of returning there
to spend a few days till the Lake opens.

1/2 past 3. Mr Bailey has just been in.
He is well, sends his love to you & all.
Eddie has just started off to see Ella de
Forest. The enclosed letter for you and
then came yesterday Mr Bailey says it
is from his mother.

The mail this morning was carried by
through mistake. I heard of nothing of in-
terest. Lake house is dreadfully lonesome
but darling Seymour has just come in
bringing Eddie who changed his mind about
visiting Ella. Seymour is a darling boy.
Seymour sends his love and Eddie
wants you to bring him a pair of
dandy boots. Mrs. Thomson sends her
love, — Good bye my own precious
one. May God bless & keep you and my
dear children. Give much love to Anne
and tell her to write to me.

Remember me to all, including
the Rev. Mr. Snow & family. Ask Mr
Snow how the Spectacles suit.

I am ever yours with much love
H. C. W.

Cincinnati Sunday Even Sept 20 1854

Dear Charlotte

Your letter was rec^d a day or two since. I have but a few minutes to write.

Your friends will find plenty of water in the Ohio & Mississippi & make a pleasant trip hence to N.Y. and good boats running from here and from Louisville.

I am glad W. V. C. has a prospect of a permanent situation as an Engineer & hope he may not be disappointed. I think with you that it will be well adapted to his talents and education. I am not disappointed in your declining to go up Sandy. It did not seem to me you would be willing to teach school there for the small sum of six or seven hundred dollars a year, when your qualifications rendered you able to command such a school in civilized country as would give you the same or more money. I should certainly have been very pleasant to have you with us, and barring the unpleasant labor of teaching, I think you could have been very satisfactorily located where your income from your money, Malcolm, Children, and the school &c would have afforded you a very handsome support, less precarious, perhaps, than you have ever had, or may even expect in Engineering. Mother will see you probably, soon and tell you more fully how we are than we can write.

Mary is improving and will accompany Mother & F. W. returning via Cincinnati. W. V. C. will probably be with them. They will not be able to stay long probably not more than a day, as I shall be ready to return home by the time Mother can get back.

Remember me very kindly to M. V. C. Love to the Children and believe

Yours affly
Wm. J. Mellen

it for granted, there is good society here. There is one thing that speaks well for the present, there is no bar kept at the hotels. I observed the same thing at Mansfield. It is the case in many towns in Ohio. The town authorities do not allow it.

In my sleep last evening I lost my travel key and knife. My pocket handkerchief had been run up and stuck, and the thread weaving let out the contents.

We had a fine shower last evening while at supper, and another this morning. I thought of you. I hoped that you too might be blessed with rain. On my trip from Sandusky I noticed that the country was suffering from drought. The corn was very backward, not better than it is in Michigan. The grass about was light. In addition to this the farmers complain of the weaver destroying their wheat.

I like the appearance of this country. The land is quite rolling, and the forests that crown the hills have a rich foliage. I presume the farmers are thriving, as there appeared to be considerable wealth in the towns.

I notice several churches. but have as yet made no particular inquiries respecting them. There is one Old School Church.

I met John Post here yesterday and concluded he must be lost. But soon learned that he was engaged selling patent rights of a cultivator invented by him and Mr. Thaddeus Wall. He appears to be doing well. I was glad to see him.

The cars have just arrived that bring the Northern mail; of course I go to the office through the usual form of habit, although I have no right to expect anything. But should you have any thing important to communicate, I did not know but you might write at a venture.

The missionary paper that comes directed to me is forwarded to the ~~missionary~~ of the Day Spring 36 copies go to Mr. Mills for the Congregational Tab. L. 16 copies go to Mr. Munnett. Tie a string around them and direct to Judge William Munnett, and have them put in his box at the Post office.

I am in good spirits and in good health. I hope for a good long letter by Saturday or Monday at the farthest. My darling, how much I miss you. I think of you when I awake in the morning when I eat my meals, when I am walking about. Talk about you with Henry Munnett when an opportunity offers. And when I retire to rest I think about you. I am very fond of the people as I remember you. My darling children

Every child, I meet in the
street, reminds me of my dear dear mother
of the dear old days. That does not remember me
Edward's sparkling eyes, her
brown hair, her eye lashes, Dizzy's bright
green eyes, her sweet expression, Malcolm's
blue eyes, all their lovely faces are
before me. I don't think that Ellen & Maria
are forgotten. No. I love them too. And there
is Mary Jane, & her Everett. What a comfort
it is to think he is with you. I think
much of that boy.

It doesn't seem great while since I left you. I
think I must have made mistakes in the afternoon. I must
have left on Monday and then
be Saturday. I can scarcely realize that that
I have been here but one night.

Friday Morning. This letter should reach you
to morning. It is twenty four hours after
it leaves this office, but I suppose it is for
the good of the public. I am sorry that
it should be held a while in London and
a day or so in transit. I do not expect to
be back until Monday. And now
my dearest I must bid you good bye till
then. I should love to kiss you when
I say "Good bye". Bless my very precious dear
truly your dear father. I hope good courage
dear. The afternoon I believe you think of
me sometimes. For the children can appear to
me now. Your devoted husband
J. M. C. Lane

health & kept us from all harm & accident
I hope you find the printing office a good
school and that you are not merely
learning to set type, but at the same time
enlarging your mind with other useful
knowledge. I trust you do call in your
power to make your mother happy.
Remember that she has many cares,
and needs the assistance and sym-
pathy of her children. Your father has
great expectations of you; but do not
think he expects too much. You have
good talents, and they only need to be
properly cultivated, and you cannot but
do well. You are now of an age
when you sh^d begin to feel that you
have no time to spend in idleness. I
trust you do feel so and that you are
employing yourself to the utmost to im-
prove every moment. Above all "Remem-
ber now thy Creator in the days of thy
youth". May God bless you my dear
boy. May he lead you in the ways
of Truth and Righteousness, and make
you one of his own children.

Good night. Give much love to mo-
ther, sisters & brothers, and remember me
as your own devoted father

H. P. Van Buren

To Malcolm Van Buren } Camp, in the woods, on the line
between Sections 34 & 35, T 18 N, R 20 W
80 rods south of Section corner.
Sabbath morning, Aug 13th 1854

My dear son Malcolm

My last letter to mother, enclosed
letters to Anna and Lizzie, with the promise
that I would write to you. I have
to redeem that promise, trusting however that
your feelings were not wounded at the
preference shown your sisters, last week. I
know you love your sisters & will, but
instead of allowing yourself to feel any envy,
you rejoice in their happiness.

Although I am in the west, I manage to
find time to write to you, and your mother.
I shall be at home in a few days, and
mean at hand, when I hope to see you all.

We expect to start for home from Eagle
Harbor on the 8th of Sept, and God willing,
hope to see you all in a week from
that day. God grant I may find you all well.
I hope you are doing well, my dear son;
that you attend strictly to your duties in
the printing office; and improve every opportunity

mity to cultivate your mind, by reading & study. I often think of the comfort you are taking, in the company of your mother, sister & brothers, in the evening after your labors in the office are over. Sometimes you read, sometimes talk of the events of the day, and sometimes of your absent father. When mother gets a letter, which is semi-occasionally, I have the travails to think you have a happy time over it. — Your Sabbaths you spend at home, & judging from my own feelings, you hail their return & enjoy them much. We always know when they come, and they live to me days of rest indeed. They never appear long. Anna's little testament, that I carry with me, gives me much to think about, and every time I read in it, I find something new. I trust, my dear boy, you do not neglect the Bible your mother gave you. Commence at the beginning and read it in course. Read it carefully, read it frequently. You then learn that you are one of a sinful race; the punishment that awaits the sinner; and the provision that a merciful God has made for his salvation. Since our Heavenly Father has revealed this to us

in his Holy Word, it certainly becomes us to study that Word with diligence and care. I trust, my dear son, you think much of these things. Knowing the nature of man from the beginning, God set apart one day in seven and sanctified it, as a day of rest from our worldly labors, and requires of us that we keep it holy. A happy provision for us. Were it not for this, we would soon forget God and sink into the lowest depths of vice & atheism. I hope you will always honor it and keep it holy.

Aug 15th I have written to Seymour and Eddie, and wish now to finish your letter.

How many type can you set in a day, & how do you like it? I hope to be able to visit your office in about a month to see how you get along. I am looking forward with much pleasure to the time when I hope to see you all, and am counting the weeks & days. We have pleasant weather now for our work; it is not too warm and the flies & mosquitoes are not very troublesome. Frequent rains have retarded our work we have been well sheltered however & our Heavenly Father has preserved us in good

Leeds Co. Mo. March 3^d 1851.

My dear Maria

and Charlotte

Can you forgive my long, very long
silence? were it not that my health had been so very feeble
for much more than a year, I would feel as though I hardly
deserved forgiveness. Yet I know you will forgive me, altho
I can hardly forgive myself. The last letter I received from
you was soon after the birth of your little boy, and I think that
letter is unaltered. I cannot now recall its date, but we will
commence some time here. I intended writing you immediately
after my marriage to Mr. Tate, but preparations for housekeeping
occupied all my time until winter, when I was taken with a severe
cough which has hung around me ever since, and which does
not yield to the influence of medicine. I was married early in
Sept. '49. I would have been married sooner, but our dear
Margaret's ill health caused me to defer it. I was married at
Mr. Elliot's store where I was then boarding very quietly and
quite privately. I do not know that you knew Mr. Tate, he was
at different periods Sheriff of this Co; at one time he was a mer-
chant, and the year I went on to Ohio he was in the Legislature.
He makes me a very kind husband - and is also very kind to
my children, far more so than I could have expected any one
to be. We are living (where do you think?) where old Mr. Latta
lived about a mile from our old place. Mr. Tate
bought it last spring, and we are of course farming. Do you
remember what a pretty grove there was around the house?
it is all cut down, I would not have had it done for one
hundred dollars. The place was wretchedly out of repair when
we came here, and it still needs a great deal of improve-
ment - yet we are now quite comfortable. Our old farm
is in tolerable repair. I had the house rebuilt immediately
upon my return to Mo, and I have now an excellent tenant

Mr. Galt superintends it, and I find it a great advantage to be near it. I find that among all the different modes of life that I have tried I love to live on a farm. It is a slow way to make a living, but then it is so independent. Farming is becoming more profitable than it used to be here; wheat ranges from 75c to 80c, and other grains in proportion with industry and economy we can no doubt make a good living. Our country is also improving, the country is filling up, the towns are thriving (except Monticello) which alas! is on the retrograde; the people are coming in from the neighboring states and land is rising in value. Mr. Garrison's family are well, Mrs. Garrison enjoys better health than she has done for many years. They have had but one child since my return, a little boy about two years old. They have seven children. Richard is almost a young man in size, he is now in Kentucky, going to school. It is a fine thing for him that he is from home, as he is so good a boy to work, his father would seldom spare him to go to school. Lenny about Willie's age goes to school in the winter, but works on the farm in summer. They have but two girls Mary, rather nice, the baby when you were here, and another about four years old. Mr. Garrison has a brother, a widower, who has a considerable family of children, going to school in St. Louis; these spend part of every summer here, and the daughters are as interesting girls as I have ever seen.

Willie and Mary are getting older and larger. I cannot boast of their improvement since their return to Mr. Garrison. Willie for more than two years was scarcely able to study at all. In the summer of '48 he had the whooping-cough very severely; before recovering he was attacked with scarlet fever, this reduced him very much. He then had the cholera morbus. During the following winter; the next summer I took him to Monticello to go to school, he was then attacked with ophthalmia which kept him entirely from school and study. The following winter and spring again the cholera, and finally last summer the measles. Since recovering from the measles he seems to

enjoy better health than he has done since the summer of '48; he now looks rosy and robust. How much I would love to see you all again. Malcolm no doubt is a large boy - do you keep him at school, or does he work on the farm? And Anna how is she? as delicate as ever, and does she love to stay as close to her mother's side as she used to do. Lizzie is quite a little lady now I know, and can assist you in taking care of her brother - ah! I never heard his name. So we are full of all the children. I know I do not deserve it, yet I must forgive me; if my health improves as it has done during the last month I may be able to be a very good correspondent. What do you think? I have been talking quite a great deal, and really think it has helped me. I have always been so much opposed to patent medicines in every sort and shape, that I could hardly be induced to try them; but all the rough medicines I have taken from our regular physicians have failed to give me relief, and I thought I would try them. I have been using Dr. Rogers' "Pain-Expeller" and Dr. Squire's "Expectorant," both of which I find very good - now I do not say they have cured me, I only say that they have afforded me relief. Still in need of using them, as they cease to benefit me. I have had very little hope of my life for the last year. I have endeavored to keep my mind in order" preparing to any event my "Assembly of Deities" might have in store for me. In resigning my life, I have but one anxiety - my children - I have promised to be the eye of faith to them, who has promised to be the eye of the orphan. Oh! how vain, how transitory are our hopes here below, when compared with that scene to which we are hastening! and what do all our troubles and sorrows seem, when we can "read our titles clear to mansions in the skies." How many of our friends near and dear are gathered into the eternal fold, and why do our affections linger here. I want to go ever to be ready when the summons comes, to call us hence.

Do write me very soon, and let me hear all family
 affairs. every thing that concerns your family is particularly inter-
 esting; let me also hear of John and Marion. Are you still living
 on the farm you purchased of Mr. Brown. I suppose uncle
 Houston's legacy has enabled you to pay for it entirely. Are you
 still teaching? write me fully and freely all that concerns you -
 Let Malcolm write to Willie - and Anna to Mary - The children
 are spending the day at Mrs. Garnett's, so they would send much love

Direct to Mr. Wells.

Refuge, Mo

Mar 12

Martha P. Van Cleave

Saline

Miss Mary and



Where is your mother? and how are the children. Let me
 hear particularly of them soon. I have frequently thought
 of you, though I seldom write -
 Give much love to the children, and let
 me see that I have your forgiveness for my long silence by your
 writing soon to your affectionate sister, Louisa -
 Mrs. Browning is well, and makes many inquiries about you -
 Her oldest daughter is now a young lady -