



Horatio P. Van Cleve and
family papers.

Copyright Notice:

This material may be protected by copyright law (U.S. Code, Title 17). Researchers are liable for any infringement. For more information, visit www.mnhs.org/copyright.



Horatio P. Van Cleve
Care of J. D. Phillips Esq
Dayton
Ohio

Am Arbor March 1st 1854

My dear Husband,

Your letter dated 28th

was rec'd yesterday, and gave me much
pleasure I assure you, it rejoiced me to
hear from your letter that you were in
good spirits, and I reproached myself
for having written to you in such con-
fidents the last few times, but I have
not been feeling very well, and just like
any naughty complaining child I
have made my friends unhappy
by my repentings as if that would alle-
viate my distress - I am better now and
will try and not do so any more -

I have at length succeeded in getting
a quarter cask of beer, and am afraid
I must attribute my improved cheerful-
ness to that circumstance rather than to
my accession of good cheer or submission -
Sometimes however I think that if I should

My letter from 28th March 1854
was rec'd yesterday, and gave me much
pleasure I assure you, it rejoiced me to
hear from your letter that you were in
good spirits, and I reproached myself
for having written to you in such con-
fidents the last few times, but I have
not been feeling very well, and just like
any naughty complaining child I
have made my friends unhappy
by my repentings as if that would alle-
viate my distress - I am better now and
will try and not do so any more -
I have at length succeeded in getting
a quarter cask of beer, and am afraid
I must attribute my improved cheerful-
ness to that circumstance rather than to
my accession of good cheer or submission -
Sometimes however I think that if I should

ever get away from this weak suffering
body my freed spirit could not and
trust God for all eternity - We are all
well and have every thing to be thank-
ful for. Last night Ellen and I attend-
ed the most delightful party I ever
attended any where given by Mrs.
Dickinson - Mr Bailey or as he names
us to call him, brother John, went
with Ellen and Ed (Wells) went with
the subscribers, he is quite attentive here
in his quiet gentlemanly way, really seems
to like to come here and we always like
to have him spend an evening with
us. His brother and sister inquire partic-
ularly after you when I see them and
I give them your message - Anna, Ellen
and I attended a musical meeting there
on Monday night. it was very pleas-
ant. Anna goes on improving in music
and is studying regularly and reading
History. she is invited to a child's party

* Henry Wells

to night at Mrs Tremains and will go
To-morrow she is going in ~~to~~ with
Mrs Thomson who is intending to
spend a week or two with Cliff for
I leave for Kentucky and Anna will spend
a few days with Mr Kercheval who is coming
any where to see her. Now a little about our
long talked of visit. Mrs Mellen seems to think
that Mary will not make ^{Ellen} very
welcome in Cincinnati and so then
advises her going by Pittsburgh - now
if Mother and Ellen go that way
I think I had better go with them for
the comfort and pleasure of having their
company and assistance - Brother John
goes with them and we could both
after all our baggage and save us
a world of trouble and anxiety. I wonder
then if the folks at Peach Orchard
first - and could make my visit to
you in Cincinnati and stay there all
at once. What think you? We may be spending

invited to stay, and in that case of course
it will be different. But would it not be
better for our party to keep together?
Most and tell me, I will do as you say.
Sam writes delightful and very affectionate
letters to Ellen. He is very happy, and says
he has not been so for years before.
He has become reconciled to his city
and is working now with a strong heart
and firm purpose to secure a competence
and settle down with the wife of his
choice, a steady straight forward and
probably healthy New York merchant.
Most is doing well. He is now studying
German with great perseverance, spending
all his spare hours in that way. Intending
to have conquered that language
to attack and overcome the English.
When he says he can obtain a situation
as foreign correspondent for some important
establishment on a salary of \$1500 a year
which he says will meet his wants
amply, and be all he will want. He writes
such good filial letters to his parents. He inquires
particularly about you. I will write again soon.



Handwritten text, likely an address, is visible in the center of the envelope. The text is faint and mostly illegible due to fading and the texture of the paper. It appears to be written in cursive.

Am. Astor Jan 17th 1834

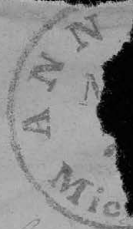
My dear Amanda,

Your and Susan's pink letters were received yesterday, and I have time to write a few lines in reply although I have not much that is interesting to communicate. First I tell me on all hands and for to be thankful that you and the dear little girls are all well and in good spirits. Most Thomson is gone for a few days on his return trip from Memphis. He having had accounts of the state of the river and was obliged to give up his New Orleans plan on account of the ice and low water. He is very well and has some well. He sends love, and tells us he speaks of his very dear and says the house does not look situated without her. He made Malvina very happy by giving him a very pretty pin - and also gave Mother and myself a very pretty pair of cuff-pins each. I have heard from Susan who is well. He has just returned

from a visit to Baltimore, Philadelphia & Washington. We are wondering how you are all going to get up the river while it is so low, but are at the same time hoping it will soon rise. Everett Clark was here last night, he told us of a teacher who would agree to teach Orchard to teach. He is ~~now~~ teaching in the old school house towards Lake at present but his time will be out there in about five weeks, and then he will try it. I think he will surely. He is coming to see us one day this week and talk it over. I believe I wrote to you that Oscar did not want to leave College, and that I had written to Everett about his going. He would like to go if he was not engaged, or he is and if he did not expect addition to be for him. Mr. Ballou of Saline called yesterday. I referred him to Horro and told him that I would write to you and find out about your account with him about his money about him.

on any thing else of the kind. It will be right in the world or another. Keep a stout heart. Let us try not to get too much tangled up with the cares of the world or the joys of the perishing things of time, so that when we are called to leave this for a brighter happier state of being, we can be away without any hindrance and be found at rest. I am sorry you have not immediate prospect of business, but you have made every preparation to start it and if God will holds the opportunity from you. It is no doubt for your good. We must be faithful more truly our future depends upon him, and this is the way. Asward our prayers for grace and faith. When we feel and know the every earthly prospect is smothered away from under us we shall be forced to lean on him for support, and we shall bless his name through all eternity for these multitudes now seen so hard. I am glad you are young.

with Lizzie up to Peach Orchard
and hope you will enjoy your visit
much. Everett thinks his mother will
be delighted to hear Lizzie is with her
while I am gone to Kentucky; and I think
it will be the best thing I can do with
him. I wish that you should take
Mother up to the farm here if possible.
Be all made to be remembered to
all the folks in Cincinnati. Mother
and Ellen will write as soon as they
get Lizzie's promised letter. I am glad
Lizzie heard Lontag - Lizzie's friends
are waiting to take my letter to the
"Gen" and it is high time it finds the
I have been interrupted by calls, so
I should have finished it before. I find
that I am painting to-day to send to her
by Mott. Kiss my darling for me. Anne
is writing her copy, she sends love and
kisses - Good bye my own dear husband and
Anne loving wife to C. C. Fairbanks



J. L. Lincoln Esq.
For Miss Anne M. Warbleton

Cincinnati

Ohio

Received from [illegible]
[illegible] here

Ann Arbor Monday Nov. 6.th 1854

My precious daughter

I suppose mother left Cincinnati for home this morning, inasmuch as tomorrow is the day, she calculated to return when she left us, and I have learned nothing to the contrary. We have only had one letter from Cincinnati since you reached there, and that was written the day after your arrival. We are all well at home; Think of you a great deal; and father & little ones are anticipating a great deal of pleasure from seeing mother tomorrow, and hearing about you. The children are all great comforts to me. Malcolm is attending school, and is improving in his music. He takes more interest in it than he did formerly, and I think by the time you return he will be able to accompany you on the violin. Ellen, Sizzie and Seymour are hard at work on the Multiplication table. Seymour can repeat almost all of it without a mistake. Eddie is as much of a scamp as ever. Sammie is my bedfellow and is quite a pet. I frequently trot him on my knee & sing to him. He will only let me sing two or three of my songs to him, the rest he will not listen to. Grace is a good boy, as usual. Sophia & Susanna get along very well. They had a bit of Dutch heavy last evening who made so much noise, that I was obliged to get out of bed and go to the kitchen door to ask for quiet, so that I could sleep.

I believe I have now given you all the news I can pick up about the house.

Little Charlie Gayou was buried yesterday; he died of a disease of the heart.

I go down town every day, to learn what is going on, but am able to discover nothing that would interest you particularly. I see the same post office, same clerk, same groceries, same stores, same hotels, same Court house, same churches, and as far as I know the same faces, same teams, and was going to say the same loads of wood. The streets look the same, saving for variety, sometimes the sun shines, sometimes it is cloudy, sometimes it rains, sometimes calm, sometimes windy.

I trust you were a brave girl when mother left you, giving her a kiss for each of the children; two for me, the patriarch; and three for herself. I need not tell you to be a good girl, for you always are a good child; but I wish you to exert yourself to the utmost to make your visit pleasant to Aunt Mary, Uncle Lincoln, and all the household. Mother says Marie is going to teach you to make cake & to cook. I think it is a capital idea, then come home and practice eight or ten years or so, and you will make a pretty good house keeping. I must teach you to sweep.

I wish you to write to me occasionally, but you may write to mother the most, and she will be a better correspondent than I.

Tuesday Apr. 7th Went to the depot this morning to meet mother, but she did not come. did not much expect her. was rather glad she did not cross the Lake last evening. The wind was high, and no doubt the lake very rough; she would have been very sea sick. I will look for her by this afternoon's stage from Toledo. Have been to the office, but no letter for me.

This is our Election day, and is to decide whether Michigan is pro-slavery or anti-slavery. Both parties are working hard. My impression is that we have been controlled by the slaveholders long enough. But what do you care about politics?

Nathaniel is practising on his violin, and says he sees nothing good in the exercise Mr Beigel gave him last. He sends much love to you, and wishes you to write to him, and also promises to write to you.

I see Ed Weller every day. He is very well and inquires about you & mother.

If any letter to mother from me should reach Cincinnati after she leaves, you may appropriate them to yourself; read and keep them.

You must take good care of yourself. If you ever feel troubled, remember Him who has always watched over you; Cast all your cares upon Him. Trust in your Heavenly Father and honor him in all your conduct and conversation. Do not neglect to study his Holy Word, looking to him for wisdom and an understanding heart. I try to pray for you my

precious Lamb. Father never forgets his darling child.

The Children have just come in from School, and all send a great deal of love to you. They love you dearly.

I must now bid you good bye, and may God bless you, and keep you. In a few short months, we hope to see you again, and welcome you home. You may have your old seat at table by Mother's side, and you may have Sizzie for your bed fellow, if our lives are spared. The young girls, your acquaintances and intimate friends and associates, of which, I believe, you have but few, will be glad to see you and I trust you will have a happy time, and will think that the days of your absence have flown by very swiftly.

Give my love to all, to Uncle Lincoln Mellow, to Aunt Mary & the Children.

Your own dear Father

A. A. Van Cleve

L. Anna A. Van Cleve.

A

M

Miss Anna C. Fairbairn
Care of T. H. Lincoln Esq
Cincinnati
Ohio

me for you, a beautiful white dress
made exactly like Mary Van der
very little alteration will make
all right In the spring you may
have grown in to it, and it is
The prettiest dress you ever wore
and you also, to wear it with
a white apron, short skirt
with the prettiest thing you will
ever see. A new dress you got done
in the first day or two in the
i? Had enough I am afraid but
we must keep up your courage
and all will be well. How do the
come on? Little Mott is spelling
words of three syllables, and
his place at the head of the class
your mother never nipped me but
it is at the head of all his class
the other children beautiful
before Mott. He is very much
pleased with it, and his dear
just more than even the best
letters are having a great success
and three publishing houses
set them up. I have requested that
let them get them up in book form
the good people are in ecstasies.
The time - It is near mail time
it is close for this time
ask for a letter from you and

many more than after and of which
from also there is all right. I am
I have a great deal of work to do
and I am in the middle of it
I am in the middle of it
I am in the middle of it

Ann Arbor Nov 21 1834

My dear Child,
You see by the way that
that I am home at last. I arrived
right about 11 o'clock, and met
father and Malcolm at the cars
waiting for me. You may be
they were delighted to see me and
you can imagine the way the
children performed when they opened
their eyes as I stooped over to kiss them.
You will wonder I was so long
in getting home. I left Hartford
on Friday morning, they would
not let me leave. The day before
and on coming to Sandwich
I found that the boat would not
go out before Monday morning
so I went on to Toledo, to help
to get a boat there, but there

Monday I should be detained until
Sunday, so I drove up to the Hotel
out for Daniels, who was delighted
to see me. Telegraphed to father that
I should be home on Monday
evening and made the best of my
disappointment, by enjoying my
last day in Toledo very much indeed.
Daniels introduced me to his
father, and I met a lady and
gentlemen who live in Jersey
City and are well acquainted
with Lizzie Sinclair (now Williams)
and altogether we had a very
delightful time. We all went to
church together on Sunday eve-
ning and on Monday morning very much
after breakfast. Mr Daniels next
took me to the boat, introduced
me to the clerk, and saw me safely
off for home. On arriving
at Detroit the clerk put me into
a carriage and I went to Miss
Alvord's. Found them all glad
to see me, and after spending
an hour with them very pleas-
antly, Cliff saw me safely to the
boat for home about 11
I have met with a great deal
of kindness in the morning and
very grateful to the several gen-
tlemen who showed me attention.
My trip was very pleasant from
the time I left you until I arrived
at home, and the pleasure was com-
pleted and perfected by finding
all well and happy at home.
All of course ask anxiously for you
and I assure you I miss you
very much dear, but the time
will soon whirl round, and
perhaps I may come for you
in the spring, and meet
you there visit in Cincinnati
and Dayton. Won't it be pleas-
ant - Cousin Mary Anna you -

Camp, in the Woods,
At the corners of four Towns;
Town 57 N, R 30 W; T 57 N, R 31 W;
" 58 N, R 30 W; & T 58 N, R 31 W;
Aug. 20th 1884. Sabbath morn.

My dear wife

We are now about three miles
from the Point where mine, East of Little
Sage. Last Sabbath day I considered the things that
have and shall be done by North West mine.
The Lord has taken care of us and kept us
from harm and accident for which, his name
be praised. I sent a letter for you to the North
West mine, last Wednesday and the Saturday
before. I trust you will receive them better
than mine letters in them for the childrens,
which will be a reason that father does not
write to you often. If you need
not trouble yourself to write again, unless
you wish to tell me how you all are,
could send you out the Salt of St Mary's by
the N. W. of expansion. The last letter I rec^d from
you was at the Postage, two weeks ago, last
Wednesday. I hope to hear from you by the
way of Eagle River, on Tuesday next. If I do

now, I cannot expect to receive any letters till I reach Eagle Harbor, on the 7th of September. This is one of my severest trials: not to hear from home regularly and often. Your letters have to chase me about this wilderness a long time before they can find me. I do not try to exclude their pursuit, but am always anxious to be overtaken.

I took up the Testament this morning before breakfast, and in about an hour and a half read the book of Revelation. It is very interesting and instructive, and at the same time there is much in it that I cannot understand. In most of the books of Prophecies, there is much that is difficult to comprehend, and some things without doubt, never will be understood, until the prophecies are fulfilled; but at the same time, there are instructions in them all, that are calculated to make us wiser and better, if we attend to them; and warnings & reproofs that we should attentively heed.

It is very profitable to us to take up the Scriptures daily, & frequently during the day, and read a chapter, or a few passages, for meditation

time; but we should also, as opportunity offers, spend an hour or two in reading some of the books through, in course. How much more interesting the Book of Job is, when you can sit down and read it entirely through, and keep up the thread of the whole story, & of all the conversations between Job & his friends; than it is when you read but a chapter or two a day.

We are strange mortals. It is probable, that when I have better opportunities, I may not regard the Scriptures with as much interest as I do now. In times of trouble and affliction we are more inclined to draw nigh to our Heavenly Father for aid & comfort, than on ordinary occasions. The present, I do not consider a time of affliction, still my sources of enjoyment are not particularly numerous, and it is a trial to me, to be so far, & for so long a time, separated from my wife and children. God grant that I may return from this journey in the wilderness, a wiser and better man. You must pray earnestly for me, my darling wife. It seems a very long time since I left home, yet the days and weeks have flown by very

rapidly. It seems so long since I have seen you
all, that I expect to see a considerable change
in the children; that they have grown both in
wisdom & stature. I presume you have not altered
much in appearance. If I sh^d not know, you
will hardly recognize me, but White insists
upon it, that I must not touch a razor till I
reach home. He wishes you all to see how a
Lake Superior explorer looks. No doubt, I
am a fair sample, losing the lock of hair on
the top of my head, lodging from what comes out
every day when I comb it. There must be less
there, than when you last saw me.

Afternoon. I was speaking this morning of read-
ing a book of the Bible through at a sitting, as
one would read a story or piece of biography,
and not merely a chapter or two a day.
Taking the advice to myself, as we do not
have preaching in our camp in the after-
noon, and having no better book, I took
up a bible, ~~we have one in camp~~, & then two
testaments, - and read the Book of Job, with a good
deal of interest. The more we read the Scrip-
tures, the more we admire & love them; and
at the same time wonder that we do not
spend more of our time in the study of them.
No one sh^d ever be at a loss for good books
to read, when he has a Bible.

It is now near supper time, I will bid
you good evening, & go out to enjoy the fresh
air. I suppose you are about finishing your supper.

[Aug. 20, 1854]

Evening. Supper is over, the sun will soon set; in about an hour we will build our camp fire for the night & then go to bed. We have now very pleasant weather, not too warm during the day, nor uncomfortably cold at night. The days are rapidly becoming shorter & the nights growing longer. We have now time enough for sleep, between dark & sunrise. I generally wake about 3 o'clock, having had rather a dreamy time on the hard, uneven ground. People may say what they please of the enjoyment of a camp life. It will do for romances, but for real life, give me a civilized bed, in summer, a good mattress.

Monday, Aug 21st Our march is still Westward. We struck our tents this morning, & at 10 o'clock, pitched them two miles West Providence favoring, we calculate to start tomorrow for the Washington man, about 18 miles S.W. of this. There we expect to make a halt; examine some lands in

that vicinity till about the 4th of September;
and then turn our faces Homeward
Homeward, did I say? Yes, Homeward.

I have told you before, but it is worth
repeating, that we are to be at Eagle
Harbor on the 7th of September to prepare
to start on the 8th or as soon after, as possible.
I hope to be home as early as the 15th, but
may be disappointed.

Tuesday Aug 22^d. I started this morning
immediately after daylight to examine some
land, and have just returned (7 1/2 AM). Our
tents are struck, the men are arranging
their packs and as soon as we get our
breakfast, which is about ready, we will
start Westward. My health & spirits are
good, and I hope to get a better journey
tomorrow. — Give much love to the dear
children, all. Good bye, may God bless
you & restore us to each other soon.

I send this to day to Eagle River
Your own devoted husband
H. P. Van Cleave

Ann Arbor July 9th 1855

My dear Husband,

I should have written to you yesterday but did not find time and as we are rather late this morning, my letter will not reach you as soon as usual, but you will be glad when it comes. I rec'd one from you on Saturday and was much gratified by it. If that wonderful night shift had such power to keep you in bed in the morning I am afraid when you come home you will be for throwing away your clothes, ~~careless~~ not getting up at all. I think it rather uncertain about the time of my going to Ypsilanti, but I believe now that I shall not go until the last of this week or the first of next. Our currants are ripe, and I must make jelly etc. besides I have some sewing

to do before I go, and shall not
probably get a good ready before
next Monday or Tuesday. I will
write you before I go, however.
I wish if you possibly can, you would
secure Mr. Thayer's house, if you
expect to keep us here this winter.
This house leaks, it is coming to
pieces all over, the little ornament
at building in the corner, is infest-
ed with rats so that I have to take
a child out with me to keep them
off - The barnyard is a miserable
place, and there is nothing pleasant
about the concern but my opposite
neighbors and the currant bushes.
I shall be very glad to leave the Red Shield
and could not think of a pleasanter
place than the house you mention.
I am not sure however that he
will be willing to admit such
a tribe of children as we have.
But you might try, the rooms are
about the size of these so that

we should have no trouble in
placing our valuable furniture.
Let me know what he says and
all about it. I paid the Post Office
bill before you told me to, and
I went over to Saline with Mrs. Ste-
vens on Friday and on coming a-
way paid her five dollars -
This leaves me \$10. I shall have
to disburse about half of that
this week, to the girl etc., and
the balance I shall keep till I
go to Ipswich for my new things.
I have got a few things at Bennett's
but he does not have a good ap-
pointment and I have had to get some
things at John Maynard's. I asked
John to let me know how
much I owed there and I
will let you know as soon as I
find out. I do try to be as prudent
as possible - and I hope you will
be satisfied. I have got some very
fine material for shirts and

am going right to work at
them. I have got for the girls a
few things at J. W. M.'s and
am pretty nearly square with
them. I will pay Melclair and
Fritz as fast as I can. I have
had some meat of Dick. he
brings it to the door two or three
times a week. and if I want any
it is convenient for me to get
of him. He charges it. I shall
drift into the chickens very soon.
They plague me a good deal.
I will do what I can for you abt.
the S. & T. Rail Road. I will speak
to John when I go down. I am
glad Mr Allen acquitted himself
so well on the 4th. I wish I could
be sure that he went home when
you complain of the brevity of
my letters. I generally have to write
as I do every thing else in a hurry
and all my correspondents might
complain of late for I have had

[July 9, 1855]

ly time to breathe. Anna has a
vacation now of four weeks and
is learning to sew and take care
of her clothes. The children are
all well. The Resident has not
packed up yet, but is pretty
decent, and I guess will be a
trump like the rest. The man
had great fun over Mont's book.
It has not been rec'd at the book-
store, and I think mine is the
only copy in town. You speak
of visiting home, when I return.
Mrs Chase proposed to me the
other day that we should go to-
gether in her buggy, and make
our husbands a visit. Perhaps
we may do so. How would you
like it? I don't know that we can
do so, but hope we can. When
my plans are formed about Ipsila-
nd I will tell you all about it.

Write by and write to Willie as soon as possible. I had a letter from both the Malcolms on Saturday. They were at St Louis, both well, and seemed in good spirits. Malcolm when here seemed much pleased with his children and, I think, appreciates my efforts to discharge my duty to them. He wanted me to find out from you, if you understood selecting mile privileges and erecting mills etc. He seems to feel that we should be very glad of your assistance when he first goes to work on his new place.

I have great hopes that our boy will do well. Do not think harshly of him. His manner of life for the last few years having no settled business etc. has made him indifferent to himself and others. This new mile, I think give him a new start and

make him over. You say it is inconvenient to him in this way, indeed I think so too - and hope we shall not have to do so many years. I know you will be able to get work after this, for I am sure that what you do will give satisfaction. Mr Ladd called yesterday and took the session book. I told him, I wish the session would take Van Lison in hand for his impudence. He filled our press up yesterday and when I asked him for a seat he asked me if he had given up our seat yet. It is none of his business to take the management of things in his hands and I can't bear him. Tell Mr L. that he was a stumbling block in my way and destroyed my peace of mind when I went to church. I am

anxious to know your wishes
about a pen, for I hate to
go to church, and be stuck when
Van Gieson chooses to put me —
He is an insolent puppy, and ma
an much dissatisfied with him
I have just rec'd a letter from Mary
she had rec'd a package I sent her
by mail, and also a box from
Mort. the life of St Elizabeth which
she says, is to be the gem of her libra
ry. She is still well, and looking out
for her son every day — I know
that Mary is attached to me what
ever she may say, or however she
may try to feel — She knows I try
to do my duty toward her — She
wished me to send her love to
you when I wrote — Malcolm says
she appreciates and highly esteems
you — The P. O. people are well —
Mr Mullen is still in Cincinnati
and in dreadfully low spirits poor
man he feels much as you would
if I should be taken from you —
There is no news in this place my
visit to Latine was very pleasant
Mrs Ford and Mrs Redden were
delighted to see me — They are coming
over to visit me soon — All send love
Good bye God bless you — Your own dear



Mrs. Charlotte C. Smith

Wm. L. Smith

Michigan

via Detroit

And now I must bid you good night my dear wife. I trust
you are now sleeping soundly with Sammie and Anne. May God
bless you and all the dear children. Your sincerely, David H. Clark

Yours
David H. Clark

Geneva Nov. Thursday Aug 4th 1853

My dear wife,

This evening I rec^d your letter July 27th and
Post marked July 30th and I assure you it was
very welcome. I do not know why it was so long
in the way. It was very gratifying for me to
learn that you were all well; and to know
I receive a letter. I try to thank my God on my
knees for his goodness to us. I regret to hear
that you have not been able to raise any
money for your immediate use, for I know
you must need it much, and I fear I
will not be able to make any additions to
you under a month, and then it will be
small. The bookkeeping work here, every
thing is new to me, and it will require
at least a month to make myself fami-
liar with the use of instruments so that
I can work independently. I said
before I left you I have theory enough, but
want practice. All the details of the propo-
sition are to be revised, and if for three
months I can pay all my expenses and
make you some small remittances I
must be satisfied. If any one wants to
know how I am getting along, you may

Mallory can mend a letter for you this morning and
we think will have it ready by the next time I write. Give
much love and many kisses to my dear children.

tell them, very well. If any are so inquisitive
as to want to know how much money I am
making you may tell them, you do not know.
I do not like disheartened and down cast, my
precious one; I am not. Engineering is a
good business and I calculate and ex-
pect to do well about it, if my life and health
is spared. The thing I have found out. My
troubles and embarrassments that have
oppressed and have made me for some years
past, have seriously affected my mind and
memory; but I think I can already see
a decided improvement in the short time
I have been at work. Mr Woodward
who was formerly in Lawrence, Mass. at W.
and whose parents live by the Church near
Mendon in Pittsfield is engaged on this
road at present and I hope will remain
as long as I do. He is a fine man, I well
rejoice with his business, having had
considerable experience, and is ready to
give me all the information and assistance
I wish. He has been here but two days
and has already given me much instruc-
tion. I have one advantage here, they are
just locating the road, and that is a
part of the business that is very important

for me to learn. When I saw Henry D. at W.
Verona he was regretting that he was not on a
road that they were locating, that he might
be learning how to run lines. Malcolm is
very well and I expect will have some
business of a light kind that will pay
his expenses and where he may at the
same time be learning so that in the course
of two or three months he will do much
better. I try to keep him at his studies as
much as possible, but it is something like
getting a horse through the mill. He tumbles
down, and when you succeed, by
 urging and encouraging to get him up,
he tumbles down a few steps, and then
other plunges and down he goes again.
My only trouble with him is owing to his
dislike to books. He cannot bear to study.
He has just come in one little 7x9 room to go
to bed, and I have read your letter to him.
And when I expatiated a little on your anxiety
about him his eyes filled with tears.
His heart is tender enough, and you can bend
him down like a young twig, but as
soon as you let go of him he springs right back.
He forgets his resolutions, and cannot keep them.
You speak of naming the baby to him, I have
but one objection to it. I like the name much

And wished Eddy named so. But we now
have one named from their family, and I would
now prefer some other name. — I will get a
Attention for Cliff as soon as it is in my power
but it may be some time before I can succeed.
I am glad to learn that you have had a
good evening for study it was much needed. I
have often thought of you as suffering for it and
have tried to pray that the Lord would reward
you and send more.

I am glad to hear that Isaac thinks so highly
of me. But I cannot see what he finds in
me that is so noble. How my love to him who
you write. I mentioned in one of my letters
that I had written to him. I will try to
write him again.

a great deal of spare time. I devote all
that is possible to my profession. — And write
to you regularly three times a week, and
call late whenever it is in my power to mail
a letter for you every Monday, Wednesday &
Friday Morning. The Northern mail closes here
at 7 past 6 A.M. I am sorry Mr. S. has
not purchased those desks. I would not let
him have them on credit. If he keeps school
he will need them, and if he does not I can
use them. I pray that I may soon be able
to help you. Miss Coxe has proved herself to
be a jewel. She understands arithmetic well.

William P. McMillen
for Mrs C. O. Van Cleave

Peach Orchard
Lawrence County
Kentucky

Ann Arbor April 11 1854.

Dear Sister,

I suppose you are looking for
an epistle from me letting you know
how we get along so far we have done
very well. the children are very happy.
they do not say any thing about you, unless
some one speaks of you. I am glad you
left little Mort. I love him very much
he is a nice little pet. Mrs. Bailey is here
at present so I have you see a nice
little family of ten. Susannah does
very well that is as well as she can.
I never should think of having
her cook the least thing. I don't think
she could boil a pot of potatoes as
they should be. but she tries to do the
best she can. I went to work the morning
you left and swept the house from
top to bottom, dusted and arranged

the Laureans, and cleared up generally. I worked very hard and the next morning could hardly get up. I had the rheumatism so bad I find I can't do such days work as I used to. I had Sophia come and wash and with my help we got all the blankets and a quilt or two washed. we had a large wash. she is coming again next week, and I may have to have her help wash as long as we have so many. but I shall save all I can you may rely on that. Mr. Baily and myself think some of going to work and doctoring for rheumatism, he has it quite badly too. he is not well at all. I feel very sorry for him. he is going home the first boat that leaves. I had a long letter from Mort the other day. he was very well and happy. thinks he may be here in a month or two. I made Seymour's pants, and he was very glad of them. I am going to make Ellen's dress soon.

the children are very good. they give me no trouble at all. don't you be at all uneasy about them. I hope Malcolm will get something to do before long. he seems very uneasy. I hope Mr. Van Cleve is satisfied with my management. I am so afraid I shan't please him. Mr. Thomson has gone into Detroit this morning on business. we some expect Cliff next Saturday. I hope he will come. I want to him very much. I have not heard any news as I have not been outside the gate since you left. Mrs. Shattuck has been here and Mary Sinclair. she had a party last Friday evening Mr. Baly. went. he said it was pleasant I believe. Little Mort says duty you must tell Mother I am the best. they are all good. I was very thankful you had a pleasant time on the lake. we feel

anxious to hear about the rest
of the journey, and how you found
your friends. Give my love to your
Mother, Ellen, and Miss Annie and
the baby. I must go down now and
see about dinner, so good bye. Write
soon and have Anna write too if
she will. yours with the Rheumaticks

S. E. Thomson.

511
JUL 18
Mrs Charlotte D. Hunt

Amherst

Mass

May 27. We leave today in the Mattamora for Ontonagon
to direct to our there. (Ontonagon) Tell Mrs. Douglass

any, I write my dear wife as opportunity offers
I have no ink at hand just now and I write with

pencil. So it may often be. When in the words it is probable that most of my letters may be written with pencil. This apology must answer for all time to come, for I do not love to send you a shabby letter.

I stopped writing to you this afternoon to say a few words to my children and while writing to them was interrupted by the supper bell, and have just now finished a few lines to Malcolm & Anna. - I wish now to say a few words to my other darlings, and must then devote the remainder of the sheet to you.

To my own little daughter Lizzie

It is a good while since father last saw you, is it not? A good while since he left you standing on the bank of the Sandy watching him go down the river on a scow. And it may be a long while yet before I see you again. At any rate it will appear a long time to your father, and I expect you will be grown so much that you will not look like my little Lizzie, but will be quite a tall Lizzie. But short or tall father will love you, and no matter how long you are his love can reach from your head to your feet. What do you think of that idea? Is it not somewhat funny? Well, let it pass.

You have had such a long sojourn that I expect you will find school very refreshing. I want you to be quite a scholar by the time I come home, and above all things else I want to find you a very good girl. And may God bless you my dear child.

My dear little Seymour

What shall father say to his dear little boy. Shall I tell you how I went to look at you while you were sleeping sweetly, the night before I left you and how I kissed you, and prayed to God to bless you; and how my heart ached while kissing you good bye in the morning while you were still sleeping. Father loves you precious and tries to pray for you, and he prays that God may give you his Holy Spirit. And you must pray to him and ask mother to pray with you, and for you. What a happy family we would be, if we all had God's Holy Spirit, and how happy we should be hereafter if we all should meet in Heaven. All, not one absent. All there praising God.

My dear little Eddie

Whose back do you keep warm, now, that father is gone? Do you miss me any? Not much I suppose since mother and the children have come home. It is just as well. You must be a good boy and not run away and trouble mother. You must read to her every day. Show her how much father taught you. May God bless you my dear child.

My dear little Sam

I should like to press you to my heart my little darling. Be a good boy, learn to say paper, don't cry any and trouble your neighbors. God bless you.

My dear Ellen I hope you must be good children and think of home sometimes; and may God bless you and keep you from all harm.

May 26th Afternoon 1/2 2 1/2 o'clock. I suppose we will have
this evening and it will be advisable to have my
letter ready. I will let you know at the close where
to direct your answer. — The evening before I left home I
sorted the papers and left the letter with the bureau in my room
with no other. One I suppose from Fannie Sinclair and
the other from H. Bennett. I opened the latter not knowing
whom it was from and thinking it might possibly be from
Mr. Tate. — I found it from Malcolm and he thought
it was not only a very beautiful, and I thought as much.
I think when young gentlemen or boys write to their friends
friends they should be particularly respectful, and
this respect should be shown not only in what they say
but the manner in which the letter is written. I think
a careless and careless manner a want of respect. It may seem
when boys write to an another but not when they write to
ladies. — I regret to hear living at a sad state feeling quite
deceivably affected by the manner in which a letter was
directed to you. — I am sure that Malcolm tell you
what I wish to see when you come home. I am quite
afflicted by the same feeling. It has been
affliction to him. — I am so long with now
a little active and a little declination. It appears to me that
would be really blissful to be able to live with our
children by ourselves once more, and I sincerely hope
that it will be so some day. There is certainly no
profit in suffering unless you make a business
of it and then you are at they do for day. I have
no notion of diminishing my comfort and that of my family
for the sake of a eclipse has just commenced, and
smoked glass is in great requisition. Millions perhaps
have their eyes turned towards the sun, for eclipses
do not occur every day, and perhaps thousands of
ed notes may be seen in the streets. I wish Malcolm
and Anna to write to me often, it will be a great
con for them if they take pains. Tell their father it is
particular. Kiss my darlings and give them much love.
Tell Malcolm the garden must wait having to this time
particularly the garden in the square between the street
and the house. He must take good care of it.
Pray often for a devoted heart. St. John C. C.
I have your letter with me and I am sure it is the original.

Amherst May 7. 1854

My dear wife

I rec. yours of Apr. 27th yesterday
And you will readily imagine that it was no
small gratification to me to learn that you
had at last rec^d some letters from home, as-
suring you that we were all well, and get-
ting along very comfortably. I am glad to learn
that you have been enjoying yourself, in ram-
bling over the hills and viewing the splendid
Scenery about Peach Orchard. I could have
wished that I might have been with you; but
the wish would have done me no good. Wishes
are not locomotives or steamboats. Speaking of
Steamboats I am glad Mr. Mellen has bought
one and that you are about to have a more
pleasant conveyance down the river than you
had going up. I suppose you are to leave about
the middle of this week and that this letter will
meet you in Cincinnati. A Steamboat owned
by the I. & C. Coal Camp, and the people at Somerset
will be a great convenience to the Sandhills. I
hope it will prove a profitable investment.
I suppose you will not soon forget your visit
to the Coal banks. Perhaps when you were
in the mines you exclaimed with Job, or
Alexander, or the slave of Anzette, for just I have

forgotten. When you have we marched into
the bowels of the land without impediment."

My last letter mentioned the illness of Mrs.
Williams. She died on last Sabbath evening, and
I watched her last night. Mrs. Williams feels her
loss deeply and seems scarcely able to realize that
the child is really gone. She finds it hard to do this afternoon.

I think I told you in my last that I had
some encouraging news from Detroit, by Mr. Sudd.
Yesterday I had a letter from Throp. that has
dampened my hopes. He had called on Mr. Kip
and the Chapin and learned that owing to the war
in Europe they had failed in their negotiating for
a loan, and consequently would be obliged to
curtail their work, and that there was no chance
for me at present. — I would go into Detroit
immediately, to see if I could not find something
there to do, if I had the means; but lacking the
means, I must stay home. I have been very
economical since you left, and am happy to say
that thus far I have not gone in debt for one
cent. My economy may appear to others meaner;
let it be so, I am determined not to ask to be
trusted when I do not see my way clear to
pay within a reasonable time, and even then
not do it when I can possibly avoid it.

I wish you to let me know, exactly when
day you will leave Cincinnati, so that I may
meet you in Detroit if possible. It will be

necessary for you to husband your funds with the
greatest prudence and economy, for we are excee-
dingly straitened here. Do not purchase the least ar-
ticle that is not absolutely necessary; every penny must
be needed to feed and clothe the little ones. I make
these remarks for fear you may feel tempted to
purchase presents for the children, which you will
find, when you come home that you cannot afford
to make just now. I trust the children will be
happy to see your dear self and the three sisters & brother
but they will not care for presents. You must not
let what I say worry you, I merely wish to put
you on your guard, and remind you that funds are
scarce or as the papers say: "money is tight," just now.

May 11th Your last letter (dated 27th Apr.) stated, that you
expected to leave South Duckard, in about two weeks,
that is about this date. Perhaps you are now on the
river on the steamer James Paul. I hope you may
have a pleasant and prosperous voyage. I have
delayed this letter several days thinking I might
possibly hear from you again before you left, and
there is already one letter in Cin. waiting for you.

We have a cool and backward spring; the fruit
trees are mostly in blossom, and the early trees
have put out their leaves. By the time you return
the forests will all be green. We have had two
winters of asparagus. The bed beds gain to do very
well this season. I have taken good care of it, and
nursed it well, this spring. I hope you will derive

1
Black River Mining Company's Sa-
ction, 5 miles from the mouth of
Black River, June 4th 1854. Sabbath
morning 10¹/₂ A.M. Detroit time

My dear wife. I suppose the
church bell is just ringing and you
are on your way to church, and I trust
will then think of your absent husband
as you have remembered me in your
morning prayers. I am now lying under
a tent which we have pitched on a small
clearing in the midst of a dense forest. The
birds are singing their songs of praise to their
Maker, and some of our party were
singing in the woods a short time since.
Perhaps the first time a sacred song
was ever heard in this wilderness.

I call this a wilderness; and you will
say, justly, if you could see it. It is one
dense forest, not only as far as eye can
reach, for when in it, that is but a few rods,
but one might travel for many days, and

still it is the same ² dense forest. A few
Indians are seen along the Lake shore
but in the interior I presume they are
very scarce. I am anticipating a rough
tramp, and perhaps you might feel some
little anxiety about what I must have
to endure if you observe all that is be-
fore me. I have no fears however; much
is considered as great hardship is only
imaginary, and I commit (or endeavor to)
all my ways to Him who overrules all
believing that he will even make all
things work together for our good if we trust
in him. My health is very good, appe-
tite, ditto. Sleep well; think much of
you at all times, and of my dear chil-
dren. Try to pray for you all. I sincere-
ly hope my little ones will not forget their
father. I am selfish enough to wish them
happy, but I do not wish to have
them feel unhappy on my account.

We have had a prosperous trip thus far that is have met with no accident although we have had some detentions, by high winds &c. We coasted along the shore of the Lake from La Pointe to the mouth of Black River in a fishing skiff with two boys about 18 years of age to row us. We have seen a wild &

[June 4, 1854]

rugged country. For several miles along the coast, there were perpendicular cliffs that might have satisfied the Pilgrim Fathers, with this exception, - they would not have been able to climb them.

If I should ever come up to this country again I would like to bring Malcolm with me. But he could not stand it to carry a pack through the woods, where there is not even a foot path and be obliged to climb over logs, crawl through thickets and under brush, wade through swamps & creek & jump over small streams. If I come again next year, and such a thing is possible I will try to bring him with me.

How much I wish that he would study hard, and then he might make himself very useful to me, and benefit himself, for he might have all he could make. Can you not prevail on him to study hard for one year. It would be of more value to him

4
than can be estimated in money.
I hope it is not necessary for me to
say anything to Anna about study-
ing. On some accounts I would pre-
fer that she sh^d study at home. She
can learn as much with you as at
school and perhaps more. She must
not neglect her other studies on ac-
count of music. We do not expect her
to make her living by music, although
we would like her to be a good musi-
cian. — And how does our little
Lizzie get along with her studies after
her long vacation? Does she find it hard
to go to school, or does she feel like de-
vouring her books, because she is so glad
to see them again? By the bye I saw
the Little Pilgrims that came for her dur-
ing your absence. — Seymour and Ed-
die and Sam are all remembered by
their father. They cannot know how
much I love them. Tell Ellen & Chick
their uncle has not forgotten them.

On the Lake Shore we found a great

5
many marbles, and I could have
gathered a half peck of them for the
children, but I had no way to carry
them. They were from the size of a
small cherry to that of peach and
perfectly round. I also found some
stones that would have made first
rate Shamkai nest eggs, and quite
handsome, but our packs were too
heavy to add to them. I was sorry
to throw them down on the beach a-
gain. I hope to be able to collect
some fine specimens for the chil-
dren when we get down to Portage
Lake for there I expect to meet my
trunk and we also calculate to
make that our head quarters. If
I can, I will collect a large quan-
tity but I may not be able to find
much in that region. — We ex-
pect to be able to send to Ontario
you for letters in about a week
or ten days, and I sincerely hope
we will get news from home, for

We have heard nothing of you since I left, and you may imagine I will be somewhat glad to hear from home. — It has been quite cold since I left home. —

The mosquitoes deserve a passing remark, for there are several in this ^{& they present as large bills as a butcher} woods, and fleas, etc., and some of our party are somewhat annoyed, by their claws, for they demand immediate payment.

Your next letters you may direct to "Portage Lake, Michigan Lake Superior" and I presume that will then be our Post office for some time. — Our Party are all well & happy. I do not know when this may reach you. I send by private conveyance to Oulana, and it may be some time on its journey.

Good bye may God bless & keep you & my darlings. Love to them all
 Your own devoted husband N.P.V.

[Rec. 1854?]

Ann Arbor Dec

Dear Sister Anna

Mother rec'd your sweet letter this morning; it cheered us up a great deal. How do you get along with your lessons? & how do you like Cincinnati and the girls there? (If I could only write half as good a letter ^{as you}, I would be satisfied) but never mind, I will write as good as I can. Mother will come for you in seven weeks at the longest. I will ask her to try and come in six weeks, remember now in six weeks 42 days only, and perhaps less, won't that be nice? perhaps I will come too since you have expressed a desire for me so to do, would you like to see me indeed? well, suppose you should be coming home from your lessons in 42 days from this time.

and you should see mother
and me standing out by the gate
what would you do? I go to
school and have fine times, we have
spelling school at the school house
and I generally spell them down,
we had one last night and I spelt
the school down twice. There is good
skating and I have been on the
point once or twice and had a
fine time, I wish we had some
of our old Rosedale sliding back
again when the boys and girls
went skating together. Have you
forgotten that little song of mine
that I used to sing it commences
as follows, "thirty three seconds make
a minute," perhaps when you
come back we can find time to
set it to music and you & she
can accompany each other and sing
it I think it would sound very
sweet some hot sultry night
but it is getting late and I will stop
so good bye yours ever Malcolm C. Vandewer

My own precious child

Your good long letter, I saw
this myself, that we rec^d to day, made
me feel ashamed of the short note
I sent you on Monday, but you
must not think measure your fan-
ther's love, by the length of his
letters. I am glad to have you
write in so good spirits and
hope my darling is contented
& happy, and that she makes
all happy around her. God
willing Mother will soon be
with you, just think of it only
eight weeks. They will whizz a-
way like smoke. She may
spend a few weeks with her
friends in Ohio & Kentucky, &
then bring you home soon.

May God take care of you my
child. Give our dear father
& S. I know how sweet his
kind arms are.

9
I should be to have you there
But keep up good courage, you
will soon be nestled in my arms
and be crying with joy, if God
spares our lives. You may learn
that if any of us are sick we will
send for you. Don't be worried
about us. we are all well. The
children are as hearty as ever, and just
as fond of bread and molasses.
I should be glad to have you at home
on one account that is I should
hear more frequently from him.
he is so busy now - a deep account
write long letters to me very often but
he says he will write you long letters
at all events, and I am glad he
does, for his letters are real treats
and I know they mean so much
good. I hope he will be able to make
us the long visit he anticipated in
the spring. It will be delightful
the children do not forget you. Lizzie
kisses me for dear "Mamie" every
night, and kisses to all.
We never forget to pray for our dar-
ling child, and we are very thankful
that she loves her Bible songs. God
bless and keep you dear ^{our} ^{loving}
mother ^{to} ^{be} ⁱⁿ ^{the} ^{best}

I have got
 a letter from
 and love
 from you
 my dear
 Mary Mary
 to me with
 the
 from me
 please then
 I
 write with
 all mine
 come - A. A.

Ann Arbor Dec 13th 1854

My darling child,

Your nice long letter,
 written last Friday reached us to day
 filling our hearts with gladness
 and our eyes with tears of gratitude
 to that good Being who has watched
 over and cared for you so kindly
 since we heard from you last.
 Your letters improve every week
 and I do not doubt that you
 will not only write as good, but
 a great deal better letters than
 I do in a short time. I could
 write nearly so well as you do when
 I was of your age.
 I must tell you all the news I can
 think of, before I answer your letter.
 And first, Miss Mary Maynard is
 to become Mrs Bigelow in a few

[Dec. 1854?]

minutes, and instead of going to
her wedding to which we were in-
vited, I have seated myself to
write to you dear. You know we
do not like her father, for he treats
your father very ungentlemanly
and besides I don't think it would
pay to go through the snow to see
such a homely looking couple.
He took a walk up to Mrs Cook's
this evening after tea, and I helped
Rachel dress for the wedding. She
looked very pretty. Laura Jane Van
Husen was married last week to
that Mr Moore you have heard me
speak of. They have gone to Washing-
ton. It is said that Mr Stebbins and
Conelia are to be married soon.
They stand up to night with
Mary and her beloved. I suppose
you have had a wedding at your

house by this time. I wish I could
see Mr and Mrs Hale when they
come to Michigan. I am glad
little Sallie and you are to be bed-
fellows. It will be very pleasant
and seem almost as if you had
Lizzie to sleep with. I shall try to
come home in about six weeks
from now, that is if our money
comes. Johnny Maynard is
on going with me and his mother
or says he shall go if he can be
spared. He has friends there you
know and it will be very pleas-
ant for him to visit them and
won't he be a nice little being.
It is possible that Mrs Maynard
will come with me to make Aunt Mary a
visit and go up to Peach-
orchard. It will be delightful
to have him there to go with you

to the exhibition, I am glad you
are getting along with your dan-
cing lessons so well, it will be
more pleasant when you are
transported to the afternoon
clashes. I wish you would say
to Aunt Mary that we should
like to have you continue your
lessons with Mr Collier until
you leave town if he is willing
to have you take a fraction of
a quarter - I am anxious to have
you have the full benefit of his
instructions, do you sing tunes
regularly now, or do you keep
singing "yes yes yes" to everything
he says? We shall be delighted
to hear you sing I assure you and
every one of your friends will ex-
pect great things of you. How do
your Piano lessons come on?

[Dec. 1854?]

I am glad you practice with
fully, and I know you try to do
your very best. Remember ^{me} to
Madame La Motte and daughter
about that crucifix dear, I think you
had better say nothing to Mont
I do not like a crucifix at any
rate, and never thought it was
right to wear one. A cross is very
different and you can do as you
first proposed and give one of
those you have, to Aunt Mary
Besides it would be quite an ex-
pense to Mont, and I should not
like to ask him to do it. He don't
keep such things himself and
would have to purchase one at
some other place. I know he loves
to ^{give} ~~ask~~ you all you ask for, but I do
not want you to send to him for
that article as I consider it quite

useful. Auntie will be very much gratified with the crop. And will I think, really like it better than the crucifix. You can give her the one you think the prettiest and then after she has accepted it ask her if she would like the other better. If she likes the one you choose the best, you can keep the other one till you see Moot again or do what you like with it.

I suppose the retail price of the one like the one you gave me is eight dollars so you see it will be quite a pretty present for Aunt Mary. You can wear the other one if you wish even if you return it to Moot, it will not hurt it.

I hope you will have a very pleasant time Christmas. If Cousin Dick comes for you, on purpose

and you cannot get off without accepting his invitation you might get excused from your lessons for two days and spend a day with the Clayton folks. Now even you may decline if you can do so without hurting his feelings, and tell him we shall make them a good visit in February. Let Aunt Mary help you out of it but be sure and not hurt his feelings, he is quite sensitive. I am glad you have been to the Presbyterian Church and that you like it. Mrs. Anderson was very polite to offer you a seat. I suppose Willie will want you to go sometimes to St Paul's you must use your own discretion about these things. If Mrs. Johnston has offered you a seat in a church I suppose as a general thing

you had better sit with her, but
about this you must ask Aunt
Mamie's advice, as she knows the
circumstances of the case. I am only
anxious that you should not offend
any one who has shown you atten-
tion. But I suppose you are getting
so wise that you know just what to
do in such cases. There was but
one word spelled wrong in your
last letter, and that was too
you must give it two o's when it
is an adverb and but one when
it is a preposition, if you look it up
in the dictionary you will see it
explained. Indeed I will be glad
starting when you are at home
again, and what if I should re-
fuse to let Mark take you away
one of these days, but that would be
too cruel, so I guess I shall have to
go with you. It would not make you
any more happy to be in my arms than

Rec'd Dec-17th 1855

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

