



Horatio P. Van Cleve and
family papers.

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J. W. Lincoln Esq.
For Mrs C. O. Vanderve
Cincinnati
Ohio

From Astor Wednesday Oct. 23rd 1884

My own blessed wife the dearest woman that
can live.

It is so long since you have heard from
me, that I suppose you must feel quite anxious to
know how we have prospered since you left.

1^{stly} How I felt when the Car whirled you off yesterday evening.

Sob, Sob, Sob; glad, sorry; all mixed up;
every how; no how; did not know how I felt; commenced
counting the days you would be gone; a piece of a week,
one whole week, and another piece of a week.

2^{ndly} How the house looked when I returned home.

Deserted; a perfect Loricellian vacuum; a body
without a soul; wife gone; daughter gone; whirling, whirl-
ing along the Rail Road; now they are at Ipswich; now
at Weymouth; now at Detroit. Wonder if Cliff met them at
the Depot. Perhaps not; nobody there to take care of them;
wish I had gone along, could have been home again by 10 p.m.
Nobody at the supper table, must eat all alone. There then
are Malcolm & Siggie & Seymour & Eddie & Ellen & Herman; but
Mother is not there and the table looks deserted, and Annie
is gone too. Whirling, whirling, whirling along the Rail Road.

3^{rdly} How we spent the evening.

Lonely, lonely, lonely. Siggie & I, I & Siggie, and the little Stan.
Siggie amuses herself with a slate & pencil, or cutting papers.
I console myself with one of my little red covered books. Mal-
colm comes in at 8 o'clock. Mail open, no letters from wife.
Conclude she has reached Detroit in safety. Hope so, pray so.

4^{thly} How the baby & I got along during the night.

First rate, but it was not exactly like home. Guess wife wd
have laughed to have seen me change his petticoats in bed.

It was done however & scientifically. About 5 1/2 A.M. some one rapped at the door; sprang up half awake, shouted to the baby. "There's Mr Wood. Of course baby looks up as in duty bound to let Mr Wood in. But I had bound ed out of bed & opened the door. When I returned to bed room Sammie made me get in bed for a sleep & a soup. He is a darling. Is he not?

This morning visited the Museum & Cabinet & Observa-
tory with Mr Wood. Mr Wood then started for home, would
not stay to dinner & I sat down to write to wife, thinking
she might possibly like to hear from me after so long an
absence. Perhaps when she gets this she will think I am
a great deal, but I can't ^{help} ~~that~~ is her fault. I would
not love her so much, if she were not so lovely.

And now how have you got along with Anna? Did
you have any trouble in getting her to sleep? Did she
keep you awake during the night. Did you have to light a
candle & rock her by-by. If so give her a little Purgative.

I walked down town this morning as usual, to observe
the state of the market. There was an unusual stir. Count-
ed no less than two wagon loads of wood. and saw one
man walking towards the bakery. Also saw a knot of at
least three men before one of the largest hotels. I knew
immediately that we must prepare for some tremendous
excitement. I determined to proceed with caution, and
therefore walked deliberately (taking steps not over 28 inches
in length), but resolutely (invariably putting my foot
down after taking it up) to the Whig office; then I learned
that there was to be a Squatter Sovereignty Mass Meeting at
this city on Friday night; the Citizens were to be addressed
by Cass & Stuart, and of course we poor Anti-Slavery
would be utterly annihilated. Anticipating the results

of the wonderful revolution that was to take place, the
Whigs are coming in with a tremendous bringing down
plies for the market, and as I have stated, already two
wagon loads of wood have arrived and another may
be expected before to-morrow night. If no re-action takes
place, I think, from the unprecedented impetus given to trade
that by the next census we may fairly calculate on an
increase in our population of at least one, from natural
causes. Do not let this news affect your nerves.

You must not think for a moment that the above was
written without any interruption. Young Sam, a lovely
boy, came to me, and with a menacing countenance
demanded brooding. I instantly dropped my pen &
took him to my arms without a murmur. We had
a great time, for he was full of the old H. V. V. V. By
the bye, I had a fellow feeling in my bosom last night
& thought he must have been picking.

The children all are getting along charmingly.
I hope you are doing as well. It appears to me that
you have been absent almost two weeks. It is
a very pleasant day, calm & warm. I am thinking
of the delightful trip you have across the Lake, hoping
that no accident will happen to my darlings by the
way. Our Heavenly Father watches over you. He can re-
member us; we must never forget him.

Hope you have written in your journal a long ac-
count of passing scenes. You know I am very inquisi-
tive and expect a great deal of interesting news
and you when you have been on a visit, or at
least found me, although I never have any to commu-
nicate. Ask Mr Lincoln about the Legislature & whether
Smith I wish to leave the result of it.

Give Mary a good scolding for not visiting as accord-
ing to promise. — Learn from Mr. Mellen how the
Coal trade flourishes. — Tell me all about the
children. Is little Ellen as sweet as ever.

Don't you feel older than you were when you left
home? Has Anna grown any? It seems an age since
I have seen you.

Sammy was so overcome by the delightful sleep
he had with me last night, that he would not sleep
this morning and Susan is now trying to put him
to sleep. (3 o'clock P.M.). Sophia has the clothes
hanging out to dry and the sun is shining beautifully.
The children are at school and I am all alone.
The mail will soon close and this delightful
letter must be sent to the office. Do not suffer it
to deprive you of an moment's sleep.

I will try to give you an account of the Mass
Meeting on Friday, and will always write when
opportunity offers. If you do not hear often, recol-
lect that I have nothing to do & that it occupies
all my time. If I do not leave home be-
fore, I am going in February if I have to tra-
vel five hundred or a thousand miles for busi-
ness. That is my present determination. Am
sick of my present arduous labors.

Give much love to Anna & kiss her five
times for me every night. May God bless you
both. Remember to all at Cincinnati.

Your own devoted husband

J. P. Campbell

No time to look for mistakes.

Lake Umbagog

Direct as usual to "Post-Office"

Wheat State Location

Saturday afternoon

July 8th 1854

My dear wife

We have an opportunity to send to the Postage this evening and I thought it advisable to bring up my notes & comments to the close of the week.

I think you have selected a good day to mail your letters, (Monday) for they appear to come direct & with little or no delay; as soon as I ^{can} expect them. The children should write occasionally. I will always be glad to hear from them, and the exercise will be of use to them, as well as gratifying to me.

We have been circumambulating some lands this morning, and have just returned tired & hungry, and while the boys are preparing dinner, corn bread, fried ham & coffee, I am

Scratching off these lines.

Nothing of particular interest to you has come under ~~my~~ observation. We heard the hooting of an owl and the bark of some animal, and the wind being pretty high, we also heard the falling of trees, old monarchs of the forest, none of which fell near us. Although somewhat tired & hungry I am in the very best of spirits. A half hour rest will relieve my weariness, & the Johnny cake & coffee will drive off hunger. I trust you are all well & happy and perhaps your brother Malcolm is with you now and you are enjoying his society. He must find some change and not a little improvement in his children. I think a visit to Kentucky will gratify them much. I am sincerely glad that Mary was pleased with your visit. I suppose you have given me some account of your journey, but your first letters have not yet reached me.

I am extremely anxious to see them for there are many things I want to learn that I have felt anxious about. What Malcolm is doing; if you have given up your boarders; and all about the family arrangements; and also how you were pleased with your visit to Kentucky & Cincinnati. — I have surmised from your last letter that Malcolm was in the Printing office. If it is so, I hope he will attend to his business & improve himself as much as possible. I trust he loves your company & that of his sister, enough to spend his evenings at home. — I should like much to collect a few flowers for you to paint; there are some here quite pretty, but I have no means of preserving them. I bought Fay's Christian, Contemplated; of a Colporteur, at the Postage a few days since (the 4th I think), and expect quite a treat in reading it to-morrow. The only book I have carried in the bag with me here

As for, is the Testament & Psalms that
belongs to him, I often think of the
dear child when I take it out of
my satchel, to read. I love to read
the Psalms & the history of our Saviour
and derive much comfort from it.
I see much in me to lament over
and were it not for the comforting
assurances of our Saviour, I
go on in despair. You always
remember me in your prayers.
I try to pray for you & my dear
children. Bless my darling
for me, and tell them they must
always remember father in their
prayers. — I will my dar-
ling wife. May God bless & keep
you. I hope to see you in
due time in health & comfort.

I suppose Sam will not know
me when he first sees me, and
it will look odd to me to see him
talking about, and sound strangely
to hear him talk. God bless the dear
child. I hope you will be able to
go with the short allowance of food you
have till I can do better. Love loving husband
1790

PORTLAND
JULY
24
MICH

Mrs Charlotte O. Van Buren
Ann Arbor
Michigan

Wheat Lake July 15th 1854, Saturday, 7 P.M.

My dear wife. We went out with the young men exploring, this morning, about 7th o'clock; It began to rain at 10th; we reached home at 10th. I took off my buck boots, pants, coat & shirt, & put on a pair of drawers, coat and slippers, in which costume I have paraded since, & with which I am now clad, as I sit writing to you. I have one objection to it, the drawers being very thin (having no lining as my pants) the mosquitoes are constantly biting my legs, and as they are not accustomed to being bitten, like my hands and face, ^{every} bite smartens prodigiously, and raises a blotch. My feet suffer in the same manner, stockings affording no protection against a mosquito's long, sharp bill.

This is probably the last time I will date a letter from Wheat Lake. We expect to leave on Monday morning and pitch our tent in the forest about 3 miles south west, to spend 3 or 4 days when we will return to Portage Lake and explore in that vicinity a few days, then go off some where on Keweenaw Point. 1st To the head of Torch Lake, 12 miles from the Portage mines; Then we work off eastward, towards the extremity of the Point; and then, God willing, we will steer for home, home, about the middle of September; that is two months from this time. The Dr went down to the Portage this morning and on his return tomorrow or next day may bring some letters from you, that were written long ago, although I have about given them up. I sent by him, one for you, in which I informed you of the receipt of yours of July 1st.

If you receive the money you spoke of
from Philadelphia, it may be best for me
not to send any more drafts, but bring
what I may have, when I return.

Sabbath July 16.th This day is soon welcome, it is
mean long to me. I think the Ann Arbor Church
bells are ringing about this time and you are
about starting out, with your regiment of lit-
tle ones, for the Sanctuary. May God be with
you and bless you wherever you may be. I
have tried to pray for you this morning, individ-
ually, and collectively. I have taken comfort
in reading in the Gospel of Luke & the Psalms, and a
chapter, in Lay's work, on the Christian in his
family. I hope what I have read may be
not only a comfort, but a penicillin. The Scrip-
tures need no recommending to you. I think
you will be much pleased with Lay's work.
He manifests a Godly spirit, and gives us
Godly instructions; and I need such. His dis-
courses are not metaphysical dissertations
on abstractions, and you are not compelled
to turn over the leaves of a Lexicon with one hand
while you hold his book in the other to under-
stand him. I venture to say that the little
ones, and the illiterate in his congregation
all understood him. How blessed must
such a congregation be! What a privilege to
listen to such a pastor! I do not wish
to complain or find fault with our own
pastor, but I sometimes wish that he knew
that our children take no pleasure in lis-
tening to him because they cannot understand
him. — As I cannot be with you, to aid you
in instructing our precious little ones, I must
write a few lines to each. Your devoted husband H. K. P.

Wheat Lake Sabbath Morning, July 16th 1854

My dear son Malcolm

Our Heavenly Father has given us this day as a day of rest, and it is heartily welcomed by your father, and I hope it may ever be welcomed and kept holy by you. Never engage in business with a man who disregards the Sabbath as a day of holy rest, and who will expect you to work on that day when business may be a little behindhand or pressing. I cannot believe that God will regard and bless any one who disregards him and wilfully breaks his commandments, and you sh^d never engage in any business when you will be expected to work on the Sabbath. Many persons and those too who do not profess to be Christians, have given up lucrative situations on Rail Roads, ^{in offices, &c} because they have been required to labor on the Sabbath; and I fear there are many professed Christians who hold on to such situations under the plea, that it is only occasionally, that they are obliged to labor; and that the situation is necessary for their support, &c. Such excuses will not be considered valid at the bar of God, however well they may satisfy our own consciences. Be very careful how you spend your Sabbaths now. If you learn to respect and observe it as a day of sacred rest in your youth, you will not be apt to disregard it in manhood. Do not neglect to study that sacred volume that mother gave you. The more you read & study it, the more you will be interested in it. Take the Historical part of the Bible and read it as you would any history. Do not lay it down when you come to the end of a chapter. The divisions into chapters and verses has been made within a few centuries, for the convenience of reference, and not as stopping places. We take up a profane history & read page after page. We take sacred history and read a chapter. Read all the writings of Moses & Joshua & Samuel & Jeremiah, in regular succession & then tell me, what you think of them. I know you will find it interesting. — You must not consider all that I have said as dull, dry & prosy. I did not mean to be so when I commenced, but I know that the Sabbath often appears long to children & it is inkome to them, frequently, to spend it as God requires them to spend; still they may spend it pleasantly as well as profitably, if they

try. --- My discourse was interrupted by the announcement of dinner, which being now dispatched, I must say a few more words to you and then close. I do not know what you are engaged in now, or how you occupy your time. I hope however you do not neglect the cultivation of your mind. Study hard my dear son; improve every spare moment; take care of the minute, and the hour will take care of themselves. Spare no pains, or exertions to please your mother. Lighten her cares and add to her happiness. Always be kind and attentive to your sisters, it will be an assistance to you when you be gin to look for a wife. A kind and attentive son & brother would be likely to make a good husband. Young ladies, that are worth knowing, notice such things. Good bye my dear boy. Your letter must have miscarried; it has never reached me. May God bless you, Grace prays your father.

My precious daughter Anna.

You have my permission to read what I have written to Malcolme on keeping the Sabbath & reading the bible. I trust you do not neglect either. You no doubt have many cares and troubles, but you must not let them weigh heavily upon you. I wish you and all my children to learn to be systematic in all your duties. Let there be system, order, regularity, in all you do. Have a place for every thing and every thing in its place; a time to do every thing, and every thing done in its time, and what ever you do, do it well. When you are arranging all, be sure to select a suitable time and place for your devotions. Remember my daughter, that you belong to your Maker, God; that you owe to him all that you have, your life, health, friends and you should remember him now in your youth, so that he will not forget you in old age. Have a constant guard over your temper, and never give way to petulance and anger. Always be kind to your sister and brothers. Be particularly careful to make Malcolme's home pleasant to him, for if he be not happy at home, he may be led to look for happier elsewhere. I trust you do not need to be reminded of these duties. You are now old enough to aid your mother in taking care of the house, instructing the younger children, making & mending their clothes, and keeping every thing in order. Make yourself a help, instead of a burden. Mother wants rest, see that she has it. Take good care of Sam. There are many things that you can do, and by attending to them in a systematic way, you will add much to Mother's comfort, ease & happiness. Good bye my darling girl May God bless you & keep you prays your loving father.

P.S. I cut a piece of poetry out of the paper for you a few days since and enclose it. I think it is pretty. It is strange your letters miscarry.

My darling daughter Lizzie.

What shall I say to the little girl that has not seen her father for half a year? Does it not seem a long, very long time to you? It does to me. By the time I come home it will be eight months, two thirds of a year, and I suppose you will be so tall, and my beard (not hair) so grey, that we will hardly know each other. We will soon become acquainted however, will we not? You will recollect the bald head & spectacles; and I will recollect the big blue eyes. I hope mother will be able to give me

a very good account of you. You are no doubt quite a help to her, in taking care of the little ones, and other household matters. Learn to be industrious while you are young, and it will be a habit that will fit as easy as an old dress, when you grow up. You must always be kind to the children; never cross and fretful. Do not forget what you owe to God. You must not neglect to pray to him, and read his Holy word; and may he bless you my darling child and make you a good girl. So prays your devoted Father. P.S. One of the young men just brought in a nice mess of new potatoes, that grew in the clearing around the house we occupy, and he is now cooking them for supper.

My precious little son Seymour.

What shall I say to you my boy. Father wakes up in the morning and thinks of his dear children & their mother, and prays for them, and thinks of them & prays for them during the day & at night when he lies down, to sleep. He prays for his little Seymour, that God will give him his Holy Spirit. You recollect you asked me one day if God wd give you his Holy Spirit if you asked him. After that you prayed for it every day while I was home. You must not give up asking, my dear child. God sometimes waits a good while before he gives us what we ask for. He tries us to see if we are in earnest, and care enough for what we ask, to persevere. God loves us my dear son, more than we love him, and is more willing to give his Holy Spirit, than we are to ask for it. May you persevere in seeking, my son; and may God bless you with his choicest blessings. So prays your loving Father.

My dear little son Eddie

I long to take you to my arms and kiss you my child. Do you ever think of your father who is a great way off? He thinks of you a great deal, for he loves you dearly, dearly. You must be a good boy, and love mother and obey her. You must not run about the streets. Learn to read by the time father comes home. A few days ago I was coming home, (that is, to the house I am staying in now) and saw a little rabbit among the bushes; and there is a little ground squirrel that stays near the house; and when I sleep up stairs I saw a little mouse, yesterday; and the little birds come down to the door to pick up the crumbs we throw out, and two or three times they have come in the house. They are singing abroad us all day. Good bye, May God bless you my dear child and make you a good boy. So prays Father.

My dear little Sam.

You must be a good boy and not cry at night & wake your mother. May God bless you & keep you my child.

My dear Ellen & Grace

Before this reaches you, your father will have made you a visit, and I trust my dear children, you were very happy. If you had met him in the street you wd not have known him, would you? He must have found some change in your appearance too. You must be good children & try to please him, so he may have pleasant thoughts of you when he goes back, and can carry a good report to your mother. May God bless you my dear children. So prays your Uncle Rach.

Sabbath evening 6 o'clock. My dear wife. I commenced a letter to you on a half sheet of note paper, and then wrote to each of the children. I suppose it is interesting to the children to have me write to them occasionally; and it is a pleasure to me. If I have given any one of them good advice I wish all of them to try to profit by it. I feel that you have quite a charge, and hope and pray daily that you may have Grace given you to enable you to bring up these precious hearts, in the fear of the Lord. I wish I could be with you to share the burden with you. We have had a very quiet day here, White Brookes & myself, (The Dr is at the Portage). We have spent the day, in reading and writing. I must now bid you good evening, as I do not expect an opportunity to send this off for a week.

July 18th 1 1/2 o'clock P.M. In camp in the woods, and in a thunder shower. I love to witness a thunder shower, it is so sublime, and fills me with the majesty & greatness of our Creator. It has been excessively hot since yesterday morning. My clothes have been completely saturated with perspiration, and when I returned from exploring this morning, looked as if I had been in the water. Last night I scarcely slept two hours. It was very sultry & the mosquitoes, ^{not a crying baby,} kept up a continual whe-e-e, wha-a-a, whe-u-u, who-o-o, whi-it-i, whip & a nip; & the small gnats were also very busy, and annoying. I sometimes feel the want of hair on my head. - Hencefore I have been counting the weeks that I have been absent from home; now as the time is about half gone, I am counting the weeks before I expect to see you again, which I calculate will be near the 20th - 25th of September.

I wish you to remind me when I come home, to write the young men that are with us, to take tea with us some evenings to have a little chat about Lake Superior. You will learn more from them, than you will from me, for you know what I have to say, has to be drawn out by bit bits. They are students of the University.

7 o'clock. The rain did not last long, but it is still cloudy & may rain again before morning. We have spent the afternoon in reaching & writing. I took off my clothes and dried the perspiration from them by the fire, & am now very comfortable. Having finished our labors in this vicinity, we calculate to start for Portage Lake tomorrow morning.

Portage Lake July 19th Wednesday evening 6 o'clock. I reached here this evening, thank God, safe & sound, I have another cause for thankfulness. The mail has just arrived bringing your letter of July 11th informing me that you were then all well; also one of June 8th containing letters from my dear children Malcolmt & Anna, which gratified me very much, and one from Mr. Wellington. You and my children need not be assured that it is no small gratification to receive letters, out in the woods, far from home all. Our Heavenly Father has indeed been merciful to me in taking care of your tiny little ones during my absence and keeping you in such good health.

Thursday July 20th In the woods, about two miles North of Portage Lake, and in camp. Wandering, you will think. Yesterday our camp was in the woods 7 miles south of P. Lake; Last night we spent at the Portage mines, & this morning we crossed the Lake & came here. There are also mines on this side the Lake. The Quincy & Deshabie are near us. - Where they are working now on the Deshabie Location is one of the old Indian diggings which are found in this country. Some ten or twelve have been discovered near

[ca. July 21-23, 1854]

Friday morning July 21st In camp in the woods
my dear wife. I hope that long ere this you have re-
covered entirely from your ague, and that you will conti-
nue to enjoy good health. I think you did well to
buccan Sammy; He certainly must be able to grow a bone
pretty well by this time. It will seem odd enough some
to hear him talk, and see him walk & eat like other
folks. I think a sight of me would make duck the corner
of his very mouth. I have not shaved since I left the
Sault, and consequently my head and moustache has
somewhat of an antique (or antic) appearance.

You say Fizzie was somewhat disappointed in not
seeing father, and that she immediately commenced coun-
ting the days. Tell her that father expects to be home in
about two months from this time. It appears that you
all expected to see me at Cliff had not seen me. When
I arrived at Detroit I commenced looking for you at the
hotels and Steamboats; not finding went to make some ne-
cessary purchases and before I had made the half of what
I wished learned that our boat was ready to start, which
was four hours before we had expected her to leave.

I am well satisfied that Malcolm is in the Printing Office
but think it would be as well for him not to be indentured
till I come home. I hope he will attend closely to his business
and try to please Mr. McE; and also that he will will
study at home as opportunity offers. - Anna is pursuing
the right course with history. Let her take copious notes
of what she reads, and it will teach her to compose
by keeping her author's hand to refer to, she will learn Geography

Sabbath Morning July 23rd On the 23rd of May I left
Amie Noto, so it is now just two months, and in two months
more I hope to be home. I have to write to you as I can catch
an opportunity, early in the morning before others are up, rainy
days &c. We had quite a storm last night, although not
a very violent one; still I could not but feel a little un-
easy, for the woods is rather a ticklish place when the wind
is high and the lightning dancing around, particularly
when you are in a tent at night, at the foot of a very
tall hemlock, which looks like a grand lightning pole.
I tried to commit my cares entirely to my Heavenly Father
for he holds the winds in his hands and directs the storm,
and he can protect me as well here as elsewhere. The
storm soon passed over, and we slept unharmed.
Malcolm asks how I spend the Sabbaths in the woods. We
do not work, and I try to remember it and keep it holy,
but know that I fall far short in this duty as in all other.
When I left the Portage last Thursday morning I left my testa-
ment on my table in the room where I slept and am now
without one, but I have Saps work with me and read
in that every day and am expecting quite a treat from
it to day. A young man of our party is going down to day
and says he will bring my testament. I feel lost without
it. — I spoke in a former part of this letter of the
Ancient Diggins found here, Who worked them? When is their
History to be found? What has become of them? In a few
years the same question may be asked of those who are
working here now. All the history that will be left of our
my will be in the Records office, where the "Deeds" for land

are recorded; many will not even have their names
thus registered; but history will record what nation
has worked them. The earliest Roman Catholic mis-
sionaries could learn nothing from the Indians respecting
them; they had no traditions about them. Some suppose
that they were made by the Ancient Mexicans, as they
used copper, and I believe none has as yet been found
nearer Mexico than this. Whoever they may have been, they
have gone to render up their account to their Maker.
Will we be able to render a better one. We no doubt have
more light than they had, and will have more to answer for.
My neglected duties, and transgressions of God's Holy laws, are
so many and great, that I might well despair were it not
for merits of my Mediator who suffered in my stead, and
the infinite Mercy of my God. Pray for me my dear wife
that I may live a holy righteous life and daily become
wiser and better, and set an example of Godliness
to those with whom I associate. I feel that I am a
miserable, weak, erring man, and that I need God's
Grace every moment. May His Holy Spirit guide us, at
all times — I try to pray for you & my dear children, and
know that you do not forget me. Does our little Seymour
still pray for the gift of God's Holy Spirit. The dear child
asked me so seriously, and with so much simplicity, if
God would give him his Holy Spirit if he asked for it —
that I have ever since been much affected by it, and
try to pray, that God will answer his prayer. We some-
times hear of such little ones becoming children of Grace.
He is not too young to serve his God. Oh that all of our children

were the children of God! How willingly we depart
 here if we knew that we were soon all to meet in a
 better world and then to unite in praising the Lamb
 that was slain for us, forever! How heartrending the
 idea that any one of the number should be lost! God forbid it.

The Doctor has not been very well for a week
 past, and has been staying at the Postage. He thinks
 he will join us again tomorrow. — My health is
 very good, for which I try to thank my God. The weather
 is not so warm, nor the insects as troublesome as they
 have been, so that we get along very comfortably.

I must now bid you good bye, and may God
 bless you and my dear children.

Your ever devoted husband
 J. K. W. & C. W.



J. D. Lincoln

For Mrs. C. D. Van Cleve

Cincinnati

Ohio

Ann Arbor Nov. 8, 1854

My own dear wife

I rec^d your letter of Saturday Nov. 4th last evening, and I was glad to learn that you were still safe at Cincinnati, well & happy. If I could have heard from you on Monday morning, I would have been spared many hours of painful anxiety on your account; for I had concluded that you were on your way home, and Monday afternoon & night the wind was the wind was high here, and on the lake must have been blowing a perfect gale. It is over now & I thank my God you are safe. P.S. A letter put in the post office in Cincinnati, for Ann Arbor, on Saturday will not be sent off till Monday morning, and will not reach here till Tuesday evening.

Supposing you had left Cincinnati, I wrote to Anna yesterday to console her, and keep her in good spirits, tell her to lay the letter aside & not read it till next week.

You tell me that Anna has taken one singing lesson and that you are delighted with her teacher, (of course you were) and that he told you she would make a fine singer (of course he did). Did it not occur to you at the time, that he always told mothers so? It was his duty. I asked John Maynard yesterday if he had some good butter. First rate, said he. I sent for some. It smelled very

much like cheese, very little like butter. But he did his duty (to himself), he was obliged to go first rate. But leaving duty aside, I trust our darling will make a good singer, for she has a sweet voice, and if her father does not know it who will?

Yesterday was the day of our Election, and of course was a busy time with politicians. In a day or two we will have returns sufficient to make a pretty fair calculation on the result. In fact, even now it is supposed by both parties that the Locofoco-Squatter-Sovereignty party has been severely worsted, on the State ticket. On local tickets there has been a great deal of splitting. Now I believe I was beaten by Know Nothing votes at Upsalanti. Hawkins is said to be beaten, for which I am glad. He no doubt joined the Locos for office, and I am glad he has been elected to mind his own business. Dr Allen has been hard at work electioneering for some time past. At almost any hour he could be seen about the low groceries with a lot of low run suckers, and he no doubt considers himself a gentleman, but I don't. I sincerely hope he will never be called again into my house.

It is said that Howard's majority over Stuart will be between 1500 & 2000.

I have had a good many interruptions and now must hurry this to the office.

The children are all very well and would send loads of love & kisses if they were here.

Remember me to all and kiss my darling Nannie for me. God bless you my darling. I hope I will learn in time when to look for you. It is now so late in the season that I think it would be more safe to come by the way of Toledo.

May God ^{direct &} preserve you in your journeyings.
Your own true loving husband.

A. P. VanDusen.

Portage Lake Aug¹. 1854. Tuesday.

My dear wife

You are to day just 35 years old. I trust you do not take offence at having your age referred to in so delicate a manner. How fast we are growing old. May God enable us by his grace to grow wiser and better, as we grow older. It sometimes appears to me but a very short time since you were fifteen and now you are a month over thirty five and I am hastening on to forty five (half of ninety) I do not regret being so old, but I lament the follies and sins of my past years and that I have done so little for the glory of my Heavenly King. God grant that the remainder of my life, be it long or short, may be devoted to his service. We have had many sorrows, many afflictions, but He who has chastised, has chastised us in love to wear us from this world and draw us closer to him.

~~I have been so long at home (Wed. morning) and I am~~
expecting to hear from you certainly. I never open a letter without some little anxiety, not knowing what news it may bring, and of course the longer the time the more anxious I feel. It is now near two weeks since I have rec^d any letters, and I am very anxious to hear that you and my dear children are all well.

I expect to send one or two boxes of minerals from this place by the next boat. There will be nothing particularly handsome, but they may be an incentive to the children to study mineralogy, and of some use to them. If the boxes are opened before I return home, I wish a great deal of care used, so that the labels may not be displaced. Let them be put in some secure drawer

One of the boxes I have packed some "fossil remains" of what are now going for stuffing, not having enough to make a pile the box.

The Ex. has sent off a letter at this time, and some with

one of the old Moundy bones, and put each one on the bottom of the drawer in its label. These labels may not be particularly valuable to the children, but they will be of use to me. They tell me where I procured them, and may be of service to me. Some of them have no labels, but I know where most of them came from. If any should ever be taken out of its place to show to your friends be sure that they are put back in their proper places. I believe I have no more of my particular charges to you. You may get Brooks the drayman, to inquire at the depot for the boxes if you have funds enough to pay for the transportation. I do not know what that will be, perhaps one or two or more dollars. Transportation from here to the South is pretty high. I may start for home in six weeks, and at the time you shorten I become more impatient to see you all. And grant that I may be disappointed in my happiness. I expect to leave here on Thursday or Friday. I do not know whether I will be able to send letters to you very regularly, but hope to do so, but I fear I may not hear from you again for some weeks, as it will be some time before we get to Eagle River. We are going to Keweenaw Point and work towards Eagle River. I wish you had a large map of Michigan so that you could all follow me in my route. I must get one in Detroit and take home with me, then I will show you all the country I have been over and where I encamped each night. It will be a good way for the children to study Geography, and by examining the minerals and learning their names they may learn something of Mineralogy. If I have an opportunity to collect any

more, and bring them home I will do so. I fear find about Keweenaw, but the difficulty will be to get them to some place where I can box them up and take care of them. I collected some at Wheel Lake and was obliged to leave them there, as I could not carry them around with us through the woods and swamps, down the ravines and over the hills. I expect to go through a fine region on Keweenaw Point, to collect specimens, and only regret that I may be so situated that I cannot transport them. When I come home the children must go out with me, with little hammers, and collect specimens for themselves. All God's works are worth examination and study. The rocks, the flowers, the insects, as well as the stars.

Aug 3^d Thursday. I rec'd your very welcome letter of July 24th last night. I was glad to learn that Malcolm had arrived home, and was well and highly gratified with his children's improvement. ~~He was very much delighted to see them~~ gather. I hope they may have a pleasant visit to Cincinnati and Kentucky. I regret much that I was not there to see him, and Mary & Mr. Lincoln, but hope that I may reach home early enough in September to see them all. I intend to impress upon the Doctor the importance of getting home early to have time to make up his reports before the Medical term commences. We are now waiting for the Pequot that is to take us to Bete Gris May on Keweenaw Point. We expect to leave this evening or tomorrow morning. All are well and in good spirits. I intend to do every thing in my power to push forward our work. — I am glad you wrote to William Houston to retain what I owed him out of this dividend. It is much better that he should do so. I hope you have paid our rent and small debts, and retained enough to keep the family in necessaries till my return.

It would be very pleasant for us if Mary could make arrangements to spend her summer in New York. She

intends to leave Cincinnati during the hot weather, on account of the children, and I know of no place where she could be more pleasantly situated. The Corn there have good crops, and no place is more healthy.

I hope to be home as early as the 20th of September, and you must not let them go, when they come back, till my return. It gratified me much to learn that Malcolm had been successful in his business. I hope he ~~and~~ prospered, and remember to whom he is indebted for his prosperity. If he settles in Nebraska he must select a plantation as far East & as near the Atlantic & Pacific Rail Road as possible, and then we can visit him as often as we like. The Corn comes often to see us.

After dinner. I have just learned that an Express vessel is about to start for Eagle River and I must bring this to a close. I will write again this week, and also to Malcolm. Give much love to the children. Tell them I found a half dozen ~~strawberries~~ in the woods a short time since that looked ~~very~~ ^{very} like the ones you cultivated ones. I have seen a few strawberries, but not one half ripe, on the 4th of July; eaten three or four whiteberries in the swamp; and a piece of rasp-berry pie to day just done.

So you see we are not entirely deprived of the luxuries of this life. I want the children to write to me, I have written to them several times and have rec'd but few answers. I will tell my darling wife, may God bless and keep you all. I hope to see you in six weeks.

The children may commence parenting. — I hope you had a pleasant tea-drinking at Mrs. Carver's and that all were very happy. There are strange events in this world, and some singular characters. It's hard to get through the heart of man, or woman.

Good bye, your own dear husband

A. P. Van Cleave

I maybe of sending it to Cincinnati in a letter for your brother Malcolm. You may write him when you are in the city.

Washington mine (abandoned)
4 miles from Loch Lake.

18 miles from the mouth of Eagle River.

Thursday evening, Aug 24th 1854

My dear wife,

I rec^d your letter from you yesterday, just before we started from the North American mine, for this place, and had barely time to go to the Post office, and send you the receipt, for you to forward to William Houston.

We arrived here today at midnight and hungry; took possession of a good log house, furnished with table things, cooking stove, coffee-mill &c, (and calculate to live here like princes); satisfied our hunger with a substantial dinner, and then went out exploring.

Last night I spent at the Fulton mine, and in a fit of desperation, took a razor and shaved off my mustache and beard, (spraying the whiskers), which

I trimmed neatly, and made my face look more like a Christian's, than it has for three months. My mustache had become quite troublesome, interfering considerably with the provisions that were searching for the entrance to my mouth.

Sabbath morning, Aug 27th

Thus far I wrote on the evening of my arrival at this place, and then went to bed.

I have been busily engaged in examining the Company's lands in this vicinity, and have spent my time very pleasantly, I perhaps not altogether unprofitably.

The next move we make, we expect will be with faces backward, and you may rest assured we are looking forward with much pleasure to the day when we are to shoulder our packs & bid adieu to this place. But few tears of sorrow will be shed on that occasion. Our calculations now are to leave for Eagle Harbor a week from next Tuesday; as we are to be at Eagle Harbor on the 7th of September, unless Dr. Syllass sends us instructions to the contrary, which we hope may not be the case.

It is now just the hour when you start for church. I wish you might spend a pleasant and profitable hour & a half there, but I cannot say that I expect you will. It would be a source of much happiness to me, if there were a better state of affairs in that church.

We have a visitor to-day from Ann Arbor spending the Sabbath with us: Mr Fred. Rowe brother of Miss R. your grandaunt's pupil. He returns to Eagle River to-morrow and expects to leave there directly for Ann Arbor. He has promised to call on you and let you know how we live in the woods.

He will no doubt give you a glowing description of Lake Superior life. — By the bye on second thought, I believe it may not be safe to invite those young men to tea. I will tell the whole story myself.

One word about Father Hennessy. He no doubt has had a hint, from some one, that he did not understand his game when he wrote his Thunder & Lightning letter. and that one filled with butter & honey would be far more available. I have no fears about the

She is in good hands.

P.M. I have just been reading Paul's Epistles to Timothy, Titus & Philemon. You can hardly expect me to write such letters, I wish however that I could, what would not only interest but profit you. I often wish to say something to my children that may benefit them, but feel my deficiency. I hope the time will soon come when I can spend my Sabbaths with them. I have had my "quantum sufficit" of this rambling life, and find it a great trial to be separated from my wife and children for so long a time.

I trust you have spent the year pleasantly; visiting your friends and receiving visits from them. I hope Malcolm's wife will be here before I return. It may be long before she can make us another visit. Mary & Sarah of course will be there, & I shall have the pleasure of seeing them. Keep Malcolm till I return, if possible.

I regret very much that I did not get your letter, in which you speak of needing another remittance, before the Dr left us. I will not see him again till we reach Eagle Harbor, on the eve of starting for home. I am perfectly satisfied & pleased with the manner in which you disposed of the funds you received, excepting that I wish you had retained enough for your own comfort till I

[July 14, 1854?]

July 14th Friday Morning 5 1/2 o'clock.

I got up about 4 o'clock this morning as I wished to add something to the I wrote yesterday, and as it is bright & clear we must resume our labors today. — I feel somewhat surprised to learn from your letter that Mr & Mrs L. are still with you, for I gave them ~~the understanding that they had~~ the whole house to ourselves and they proposed to be looking for another boarding place. If they do not go soon I will write to them. I do not blame you for I know it would be unpleasant for you to speak to them about leaving. I was particularly anxious that you should have the house to yourself for the comfort of yourself & family & I know from my experience when you were gone that you could far more economically. — I did not like Mr Sig Rensick before my family, he would sometimes come in with such a proud odour of sin about him that it was very disagreeable to be near him at table

[July 14, 1854?]

Once he said at table before Malcol-
& the children, that prayers ought to
kick out of a school room. Mal-
colm thought they were needed there, if
any where. Another time he called
the Bible a game. I told him I did
not consider it a game. — When I
was urging Malcolm to pursue his
studies and give up the notion of go-
ing into some business before he had
an education, Mrs I ridiculed my
opinion, ^(when they were alone) and set before him her Cliff
I suppose, as an example. Malcolm
did not relish her remarks about me,
and told me what she had said.
I mention these things and might do
more, to show you that I have some
little cause for dislike. — I under-
stand that the Cholera is in them in-
ter; if so, you cannot have the child-
ren confined in close rooms, and
the only room in the house fit for you
to occupy is the one they have. To sum
up the whole matter, if they do not leave
soon I will write and tell them what
I think of it. I will take the responsibility.

Co. Cincinnati Jan 6.

My own very dear Mother

I want to see my
little Mat with his blue eyes
peeping out, and I want to
know if he looks into your
bed every morning. I want to
see his little blue eyes once
more. Tell him I love him
better now than I did when
I was home. I want to see
little Sam and kiss his fat
legs, and smooth his hair.
Sam any teeth. Can he creep?
I want to see him. I want to see
my boy. Tell me if he can read
know whether he can read
& spell. Does Mal ever get
along well with his arithmetic
& spelling. I want to see the
dear boy once more, and my dear

Little hands from of dear little hair

Sister Hannie - You must
read your letter and
Malcolm his & Hannie's.
I should like to see my mother
that dear face once more.

Kathleen sends love to Aunt
Ellen & Grandma.

Love to all.

Good bye may God bless
you my dear Mother.

Your daughter Sig.

My dear Sister Hannie

I will write a longer
letter to you in a few days.
I hope to see you very soon.
Kiss Mother, Malcolm & Sig-
mond & Martin & Sam for me.
Aunt Belle & Aunt Mary send
love. And Mary Ann & Lillian.
Have you been here lately yet?
We are going up Sunday this week.
I hope Malcolm is a good boy.

and that you are a good
girl. I hope little Ellen
will soon write to me.

May God bless you my
dear Sister - Good bye.

Your little Sister Sig.

My dear brother Malcolm.

I hope to see you soon.
I cannot help writing this short
letter to you & dear Sister
Hannie. Little Andrew & Ellen
Sinclair is at home at once.
I hope you and Hannie &
Sig. know how dear Mother
feels dear Mother, Sam, Mary
Ann & most & say more. If possible
I hope Seymour never says. You
want your little son to be
into his grave, don't you.

May God bless you my
dear brother, I hope to see you
soon. Good bye my dear little brother
Your little Sister Sig.

Monday Jan 9 16th 1854

My precious wife. —

You see your daughter Liz
(as she calls herself) has written
three pages. It was her own dic-
tation while I guided the pencil in
her hand. I know you will
appreciate all the darling scraps.
She is a precious child, and by
her sweet manners, makes her-
self beloved by all. — We are waiting
here for the movement of the waters.
Some rain has fallen of late. The
river is rising and the ice running
off. Mr. Miller told Belle today
she would probably leave on Fri-
day evening for Peach Orchard.
It is possible that we may start
before. I may stay there about
a week. — I have nothing
new, interesting, nor encouraging to
write. I am sure dear old husband
is still

[Eca. Jan. 16, 1854]

My dear wife

I have written a
post script to Lizzie's letters.
Pearlie is now teaching her French.
It is not probable that she will
make such progress as to lay aside
her English. —

I went yesterday to hear Sam^l
Wilson. I was much pleased
with the sermon in the morning
not so well in the evening. I
recognized James Johnston's face in
church, no one else. A splen-
did church has been built on
the site of the old one. The front
& only entrance is on 4th Street.
It is quite a large church, but
was not well filled yesterday.
It has no gallery, excepting op-
posite the pulpit for the choir.

Dr Lord's church, a branch from
this is a handsome building, ex-
ternally, on Broadway between

4th & 5th West Side. Several
fine churches have been built
since we left here, but I do
not know whether the worship-
ers have increased in Godliness.

I visited the High School a
short time since with Belle.
She was in search of a teacher
to go up to Peach Orchard. I was
very much gratified with what
I saw of the building. I wish
they could build one on a similar
plan at Ann Arbor. Mr. Barney
is at the head of the school. I in-
tend to get his report and the
plan of building to send to you
for Mr. Voorhies. It will be pub-
lished in a few days. Mr. Bar-
ney promised me a copy.

This building cost the city \$30,000
and does it credit.

Ann Arbor may take
some hints from the plan,
and put up a House with
some taste and ornament
that will do them credit.
Something may also be learn-
ed from Mr. Barney's report.
He has had a great deal
of experience.

On Friday last I went
over to Newfist again to see
Mr. Spillman, but, after wait-
ing a long time was dis-
appointed. I crossed over
the Suspension Bridge to Cov-
ington, and went into a
Rolling mill, and saw them
rolling bars of iron, rods &c. It
is wonderful what Machinery
can do.

It is raining again today
for which I judge the poor
must be very thankful,
For Coal is very high, I be-
lieve about 25-cents a basket
Mr. Allen has had some
brought by Rail Road from
Barnesville, to supply the
demand till it can come
down the River.

Give much love to my dear
children, I am glad Mar-
rie has her nose to the
book, & is studying hard.
May God bless you all
Remember me in your prayers
Your own loving husband
H. P. Van Cleave



Cincinnati

Jan 12th 1854

My dear mother

I hope I will see you soon. I went last night to Madame Sontags concert, and I was very much pleased. I have often thought of Sam Agnew, and Sammys cap, and like Sam himself. I often thought of Mrs Thomson, how he told us to bite off our nose. I often thought of Malcolm and send him a picture of an old man. I have often thought of Nannie and send her some scales to reach Ellen. You must let them all see the man to make them laugh.

Tell Nannie she must write to me, and tell me Ellen was delighted to learn. Pearl's sends love

To you, and Aunt Mary
I send love
Mary Ann sends love to
Nannie.

Your daughter Liz

My dear wife

The above letter was
dictated by our dear Lizzie (Liz)
I guided her hand. I hope you
will be able to make it out.
We had considerable rain yesterday
and last night which I
hope will enable Mr. Mullen to
get his coal down. I expect to
accompany Belle to Peach Orchard
next week. May stay there three
or four days, then return here, stay
a day and then go to Dayton,
spend two or three days there, then
I know not where. I wish much
to see you all, but do not know
when I will be able to visit home.

I have not heard from
you for many days, I suppose
you have been at a loss to
know where to direct. You may
direct one more letter here if
you receive this. I am very
anxious to hear how you all
are, and how you prosper.
Do you suffer any more from
pain in your back and limbs?
You say nothing of Anna's cough.
Has she got rid of it?

Lizzie went last night to hear
Lontay sing. She heard a little
girl, about the size of Nannie,
play very sweetly on the violin,
(Does Malcolm practice any?) She
returned delighted with what
she had heard. She is a dear
sweet girl, and behaves very
well. You must miss her very
much.

It must be very trying to
you darling to receive no en-
couraging news from me. I
think it very doubtful whether
I will have any thing to do in
~~from the 1st of the month~~ ~~for some~~
time for me in my circum-
stances to be idle.

Afternoon. Letters, Letters, let-
ters today from you, Mother & Ellen.
Your letter to me elevated me
much. I was indeed a gratified
to learn that you were all well
& happy, and enjoying yourselves.
Lizzie was right glad to hear
from home. Her eyes sparkled
when I read you account of the
little ones, and when I read
about you missing her at night
her eyes moistened a little.
She is a darling child and
I do not wonder that you miss her

I wish you could see many
children, I think you would
love them much. Pearl's speaks
French very well. She is a pretty
child. I believe Ellen is my
pet. She is a darling child &
makes me think of my own
precious baby. She is a dear
good baby and always is de-
lighted with any attention,
and very grateful for it.

Belle sends her love &
says she will write to Mo-
ther next Sunday. Give love
to all for me. Kiss my dar-
ling children for me again
& again.

You say dearest you are
sick of living this way, separa-
ted from your husband. I
hope darling it will not be
necessary for me to be separa-

rated from you long. It
is a great trial to me. I
hope that ere long I may
be out of debt, and be
able to have my family
with me. I hope for brighter
times. There is a great com-
plaint of hard times here.
Mr. Mullen says he has ne-
ver known business men
here to be so cramped for
money as they have been for
a few weeks past.

I must now bid you
good bye. I wish to say a
few words to Anna & Mal-
colm.

Your own loving husband

H. P. O'Brien

P.S. Lizzie burnt up the pictures she was
going to send. They were efforts of her own
genius.

My dear daughter

So you miss father
do you? Little can you
imagine how much
your father misses you
for he loves you dearly.
Still I would not wish
you here with me while
mother is in Ann Arbor, for
I know you must be a
great comfort to her. You
always were a darling good
child. Are you still reading
Hixon's history. I think you
to read as much as possi-
ble and think of what you
read. "Read, mark & inward-
ly digest", for which examine
the prayer book I when found
make a note on it.

Lizzie sends love

Your own dear Father

My dear Son Malcolm

I was gratified to day
when I read in Mother's letter
that you were trying to study.
I hope you will never more
waste time in idleness. I
wish much that you could
improve every moment. Read
history with ~~interest~~.

You must remember too that
now you are mother's main
stay. Never let her want for
any thing that you can supply.

~~You must remember too that~~
you can be with her to help
& comfort her. As soon as I
can get a good situation
for you I will want you to
leave home. — Remember me
my dear Son, as your father
who is very anxious that you should
do well.

Genantown
Friday Nov. 4th 1853.

My own dear wife

It appears to me to be a long, very long time since I have written to you, and now I wish to have a little chat, about nothing in particular, but matters and things and our individual selves, in general. And as age should come before merit, I will commence with myself. It will soon be the 23rd of Nov. and if my life is spared that long it will be forty four years of age. I must now thank God for preserving me thus far and giving me so many blessings and particularly for giving me such excellent health. Engagements must assuredly agree with my health. I have enough out door exercise to keep my blood circulating and to strengthen my Constitution but not so much as to exhaust me. When on the farm labor was too severe, and the sedentary habits, with the vexation of spirit that goes to the lot of a pedagogue, are enough to wear out and destroy a Constitution of iron.

I enjoy good Spirits, and walk with a more elastic step than I have for some years past. The fact is I feel so young and handsome, that I scarcely expect you to know me when you see me. My head cannot boast of more hair, in the contrary I think there has been a falling out there, and a parting of company. I know not which is to blame, the head or the hair. I think, if the head had held fast, the hair would have remained. Cold weather is approaching, and I expect the head will be the greater sufferer of the two.

Notwith-standing my renewed youth and beauty, and my being removed from the watchful care of my wife, I did not go to the ball last night, at the Schaeffer house I received an invitation, but had sufficient resolution to decline it. I don't think of the struggle it must have cost me, — I will not say that Malcolm went to the ball, but this much I can say, I know a boy that did not go to bed last night. He has felt rather dull today in consequence. He has however walked about ten miles with me, today. He enjoys very good health and is a promising child, for he certainly makes

a great many. Enough has been said of myself. Perhaps you would like a few words respecting you and your flock. I expect to find my precious wife enjoying better health and Spirits than she has for a long time before this. Her hair may be as grey as formerly, but her cheeks will be more rosy, and she will look about five years younger than when I left home.

Somehow I fancy that the children will have changed, that they will have grown considerably, for I feel as if I had been absent a long time. What ever changes may be observable I hope and trust they may all be for the better. I suppose Little Sam may keep you from growing very fleshy, but the cool weather will now help bring you up particularly since the sale of the farm.

Good Night Dearest, I think of you much, and often, or I would not commence a letter when most of the community are in bed. It must be about 11 o'clock and my eyes begin to feel for bed. Kiss my dear children for me. May God bless and preserve you all. I trust your next letter will

tell me that mother & Ellen are with
you. — I wrote to Mont last night and
directed it to the care of Syon, 170 Broadway,
New York. — When do you have thank-
giving in Michigan this year? — I men-
tioned in the paper you sent me that
Pres Tappan had returned. What are the
prospects of the high school?

Good bye precious wife, I hope to
see you the latter part of this month.
Love to Anna & Leggie & Seymour Ellen &
Grace, Ed & Sam.

Your own loving husband
H. P. Van Cleave

Lin^{ti}, Jan 21. 1844

My own dear Mother

Father read your letter
to me this morning, and
I was very much pleased with
what you said about the pink
ones. We expect to go up to St.
Sandy to day. — I wish I
could write you a longer
letter but I have not much
paper. Give love and kisses
to all the children. I wish
I could see ~~you~~ all. — May
your seeds live to you & your
and ~~them~~ & Grace also.

Your daughter Isabel

My own dear wife —

Your precious, comforting
letter of the 17th was rec^d this morning. She
packed up yesterday, expecting to
leave for Peach Orchard in the eve-
ning, on the steamboat, "Cabinet," but
she did not get her down, and consequently

we did not go up. She is expected today.
The river is so high that we expect to
go all the way by water. The coal
boats have not arrived yet and are
not expected before Monday. I am
at the mouth of the Sandy and expect
to leave yesterday morning but the
wind has been too high for them to
come out. Yesterday morning, ~~and~~
like any April day, so warm; this
morning like January, so cold. At noon
yesterday we had a very hard
shower with thunder. This morning
it is bitter cold. A delightful cli-
mate! Rain, mud, ice, snow, ice,
Rain, mud, mud, ice, ice, mud, ice,
snow, sunshine, mud, ice, &c. &c. &c.
I heard Made Lontay again last
evening, ~~who was being much gratified~~.
I wish Malcolm had been there to

hear Camille Verso play on the violin.
I think it would have tempted
him to leave. She is about the same as
Anna and 14 or 15 years of age, and
plays charmingly. He has never heard
anything like it. I wish you and Anna
could have been there.

We expect to leave this evening.
I regret I have no comforting news to
send you about my prospects for business.

Dear Mother

I hope I will
see you very soon. Is
Mamie well, & Malinda
Seymour, Mortie, Lanning
Ellen, Grace, Grandma
& Aunt Ellen, and you
yourself? I am very well.
Father is very well, but was
unwell a day or two.

Is it almost spring?
I hope you will not
write me a letter that
says they are not all well.

Your dear little
daughter Fizzie

Lin^{ts} Dec 10th 1854

My own dear wife

My precious Fizzie
brought me pencil and
paper, and wished me
to guide her hand
when she said a few
words to you. You have
her letter on another page
it is all her own. I know
you appreciate it. She is
a darling child. I hope
you do not mourn her ab-
sence. She appears to be
very happy.

I went last evening, with
Mary, Belle & their husbands
& her Sonny. Was highly

delighted with that you
could have been by my side
with Nannie & Malinda. You
would have enjoyed it
much. Mrs. Susan & Mary
want to take the children
to hear her (Mary Ann Pearls
& Lizzie).

One word about Lizzie's
dresses. She is the only one
I have seen, since I left
home, wearing short sleeves.
Belle intends to give you
a regular ^{about} ^{up} ^{it} ^{when}
she sees you. The winter
is so far gone you need
not trouble yourself about
it, but another winter I

hope you will will
make long sleeves for the
girls.

Lizzie sends you this
Rose Leaf, and one for
Nannie she stuck in
the envelope of Aunt
Mary's letter to Emma.

Lizzie tells you I
was sick a day or two.
I had a very severe pain
in my back, hips & limbs
so that on Sunday night
I could not sleep. I thought
it was owing to my liver.
Took some blue pill &
am now am well.

Love from your husband.

Cincinnati Jan 5th 1854

My own dear wife

I rec^d. this morning, your letter enclosing Malady to me and, Answer to Lizzie. If you want to know how happy it makes me, just think of the pleasure you enjoy when you hear from me and then multiply it by ten or rather by ~~ten~~ hundred. For in the first place you are one hundred times more desirous of love than I am, and your letters are ten times more interesting than mine. Ego, if Arithmetic is a true science we have $10 \times 100 = 1000$, — I wish I could write you a bright, encouraging letter this morning, but as yet I have learned nothing that will make you particularly happy. — Day before yesterday I took Lizzie to see Eliza Worthington and Elizabeth made me promise to bring her yesterday to stay all night. This morning she came back in a carriage with Cousin Elizabeth, and Eliza Ester, who called on Mary McKellar and went back with them to spend the day with Eliza Ester's children. I took dinner yesterday with Elizabeth. The afternoon I called on Mrs Brown & Hubbard, and in the evening took tea at Eliza Ester's. We have had some cold weather and snow but for two or three days it has been very mild.

crossing it. It has a span of 550 ft and
cost \$70,000, and was built by Covington & Wes-
port. It does them credit.

Madame Taitz sings here next week
Your humble slave expects to hear her
on Monday evening.

I regret dearest that I can write no-
thing encouraging about my business, for
I know you need something encouraging
to keep you in good spirits when your
husband is far far away. Siggie is sing-
ing "Old Folks at Home". I wish you could hear
her sweet voice.

I must now close for the mail. I shall have
finished this yesterday. It is hard for me
to be absent from my dear wife and children
when I am doing something for their benefit.
I kiss all the dear children for me. I will
write to Mal when I am in town. Love

to Ellen Mother. May God bless & keep
you all. — Our dear little Siggie loves
her too. She is a great comfort. I hardly
know how to leave her.

Your own dear husband
H. H. Wilcox
Siggie talks of going to the theater to night
to witness the play of Uncle Tom's Cabin.
She goes with Aunt Nellie & the children.

Ann Arbor Friday Morning, Oct 27, 1854

My own darling wife

I have just returned from the Post Office without any news from my precious ones, but not complaining, for I hardly dared expect anything; still I was unwilling that a letter from you should lie in my box uncalled for. I wrote to you the day after you left to let you know how we prospered when the soul of the house was absent. I am sure you have learned that we were all doing well; that is, as they say of the ladies under certain circumstances, as well as I be expected. We are still doing well; Malcolm is a good boy, and is trying his best; The children all behave very well. Sammy gives me no trouble. I am obliged to brook him several times during the day for his comfort and mine. At night he sleeps soundly, and I have no trouble in attending to his wants. We all enjoy good health; our Heavenly Father takes care of us unworthy as I am of his kind care.

We are now enjoying a delightful Indian Summer. The children are amusing themselves in the garden, (It is now just 12 o'clock), Sammy with the rest, and appear to be very happy. And why not happy? They are well, and have no cares to distress them. They are happy when they lie down, happy when they get up; happy at school; happy at play. When I look at their happy, innocent faces, I think "Of such is the Kingdom of Heaven."

I went with Malcolm this morning to Mr Bengel's room, to hear them play together. I think he will make a first rate performer, if he per-

May God bless & keep you, ever yours
P.S. Lydia sends her love and wishes you to give Anna ten pence.

sevens, and practices his lessons. He keeps very good time, and handles his bar well. Excuse me a few moments. The dinner bell calls me. Won't you dine with us to day? We can give you a plain substantial dinner, and a very hearty welcome.

Afternoon. This ~~is~~ day advertised for the Grand Democratic Mass Meeting; and also the day appointed for the discussion between Howard & Stuart, on the Nebraska question. Cass is here, and will address the Sovereigns on Squatter Sovereignty. We expect, quite a time. I have never heard Cass, and am anticipating a great treat. He is my bean ideal of a Socrates. That is one who keeps his political conscience well oiled, ready to turn for every change in the political breeze. — You must excuse me again, I must go down street to see the lions and hear them roar. — They will not drive you out of my mind. One word before I forget it. Ad enquired after you daily and wishes to be remembered; Miss Sudd called on Anna yesterday, and regretted not seeing her. Mrs Jones & Mrs Howard left their cards to day; see what you have missed.

Saturday morning. I am very anxious to learn how you have got along in your journey, and go to the office after the arrival of any Eastern mail.

I was much pleased with Gen. Cass' address yesterday afternoon. He was listened to, with deep attention by both parties, for three hours. He reasoned well, and discussed the Nebraska question with the dignity that becomes his years and standing. In quoting laws and speeches, he took the political license of reading just so much as favored his argument leaving out what opposed it. It was all right; all the so; He was perfectly understood. I was highly gratified. I think he said

all that could be said in favor of the Nebraska bill, and he left me firmly convinced that the cause he struggling to support, was a hopeless one.

After Gen. Cass concluded, Jacob M. Howard (Whig) was called on. He took the stand with some hesitation, not wishing to intrude. His discourse was sound & logical, and he was listened to with attention, although it was late and all were weary of standing, — by all the Anti-Nebraska party and the reasonable portion of the Socrates. Then we saw a marked difference between the Whigs & Socrates. Cass received uninterrupted attention from the Whigs, but no sooner had Howard taken the stand than a set of howl bagabonds (and the Soco party is composed principally of such) commenced making a disturbance, and continued it throughout his speech. Judge Kingsley was mortified and tried to quiet them; but they were Sovereigns and what is the advantage of being a Sovereign if one cannot reign.

In the evening we heard the discussion between William A. Howard and David Stuart. The Court House was crowded almost to suffocation. Stuart you know was our member of Congress last year and voted for the Nebraska bill. He is now Candidate for re-election & Howard is his opponent. The debate was opened by Howard who ^{came} right to the point and argued the case calmly and deliberately. Stuart followed but devoting the first half hour to rhetorical flourishes, he had but little time left for argument, and consequently was obliged to leave some of Howard's arguments unanswered. By the rules agreed on between the parties, each was to speak an hour, and then each one half hour. The debate was conducted with good spirit and in a gentlemanly manner by both parties. Some summaries made a little dis-

P.S. I hope I hope my letter will not prove a bore for when you are about to go, it is a great comfort to write & say things I want to say. I have nothing of interest to write.

I presume I shall find you to visit at dinner. I shall hope my dear lady.

turbance in the room, and of whom was sent out by
Mr Mead, and hustled down stairs by the boys. — Of
course the Lucos think Stuart had the best of the argument.
We think differently. Stuart is a ready off hand speaker
and would do for a Fourth of July orator, but if I had
an important suit to be tried, of the two, I would here
take a moment to choose Howard.

I saw Lewis Cass in town yesterday. He had been
looking for you, and had been directed to Huntair. He
regretted much that you & Anna were out of town. His
sister is now in Detroit. Her husband has gone to Cali-
fornia as Geologist & Surgeon to some Government party,
and will be absent a year. I asked him about
Sandy Kerchival. He said he was going to Hell as
fast as possible, if he were not there already; & that he
had married a prostitute in Cincinnati. Bob has
gone on a whirling voyage.

By this morning's mail we have an account of a terrible
accident on the Great Western Road in Canada. 57 killed,
many wounded. It is also reported that a collision occur-
ed on the Lake Shore Road near Toledo by which twenty
lives were lost. When so many accidents are occurring on
Rail Roads and Steamers, I feel very anxious about my
absent ones. I looked for a letter, somewhat confidently,
by this morning's mail, but it was not in No 20; the P.M.
must have put it in some other box, by mistake.

The children are all very well, and no doubt would send
love and a thousand kisses if they were present. Eddie has
just made his appearance and tells me to tell you that he
is a good boy, and he is a darling child, and so are they all,
all, darling children. — Tell Anna, Father misses her very
much. Seymour sits in her place at table, Malcolm occupying
your seat, and pours out my coffee. When he is absent one
Lizzie sits there with becoming dignity. Ellen & Anne keep their
old seats. Eddie, ditto. All have good appetites.