



Horatio P. Van Cleve and
family papers.

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I am writing
to you a long long letter
but I am not
writing to you
I am writing to
you all to the
at the depot
when it arrived
ed with great
comfortable
sequence. We
lively rate, I
reached 4 miles
an accident
gives that
where we were
for another
were we able
trains going
many hours
twelve o'clock
gated there
for from here
slightly cramped
my cold has a

It is needless to tell you that I felt sad last evening in parting from you & my dear children. I tried however to encourage you all to the care of our Heavenly Father, & to trust my way to him. I was obliged to wait at the depot over an hour for the train, as soon that night had been spent with you. When it arrived I found it pretty well crowded with passengers & I did secure a very comfortable seat, but I did not sleep in consequence. We sped along our way at a lively rate, keeping up steam, till we had reached 4 miles this side of Marshall, when an accident happened to our faithful engine that compelled us to go back to Marshall where we were obliged to wait over two hours for another engine. Having lost the time we were we obliged to keep out of the way of trains going East & were consequently delayed many hours I did not reach here till near twelve o'clock today. I felt some what fatigued during the night but did not suffer from head ache till this morning & then but slightly compared with yesterday. I think my cold has almost left me, but may expect

a return of head ache every morning for a few days. I called on your Cousins on my arrival, found John & family well; Mrs William engaged; Mrs Richardson & family well; Charlotte & family well. — I have put up for the present at the Lake House. Just before dinner Mr John Howard stepped up and spoke & when I gave my part addressed I was glad to see a face that I had seen before. It was the first that I had seen since leaving New York. The calls that I have made, were made after dinner. I also called on Mrs Lindsey but she was not in. — On the boat had some chat this morning with a gentleman from Cincinnati who was acquainted with Mr Sincere, a Mr Corby, a manufacturer of Rail Road iron. — I also had some conversation last evening with a second Advent Preacher a rough looking man, that I supposed might possibly be in France or hard working blacksmith. He thinks the 10th Chap. of Revelations refers to this country. I cannot see it in the same light. I will as soon apply it to Greenland or Patagonia.

As I slept or rather dozed but little last night, I have been somewhat tired & drowsy this afternoon, but I do not mean to let the evening pass without saying a few words of New York & you.

In the morning, if the health are spared it is my intention to start out on an exploring expedition, looking for my old friends. Father for a blessing. I feel my utter inability to do any thing of myself. I know I have your prayers for my success my darling. — I found that the Cousins were all talking about me last evening, and were querying what had become of me. Something of a coincidence & a fulfilment of the old adage, "Speak of the dead and they will come to life." I did good sewing. I have eaten just half. I have thought of you & my dear old man not a little. —

Walter has grown to be a fine stout boy, his mother put short dresses on him today for the first time. Johnny looks pale & thin. I have not otherwise altered much. He did not remember me. They have all had bad colds. I colds have been as prevailing as at A. C. All ask after you & the children. I want to know when we have heard from our dear wanderer, Mal. —

Chicago has not altered any since I was here in December, but John thinks there will be a great deal of building this summer. He & Dr. Plummer have given up the idea of building those houses & rents. They found it was going to cost twice as much as they expected. W. Williams is building the store he

planned last fall. For I find this
a very pleasant, quiet, well kept place, & pre-
fer it to the Tremont. There is not so much
of a crowd, nor so much parade.

I have written several things to com-
fort you. I had a safe & prosperous jour-
ney; my health is better; my friends ap-
pear to be glad to see me; & I have writ-
ten in good spirits. You must give me
credit for all this in your memory. — Tell
my dear children that I have thought of
them much, & very much. Kissed young Matty
& Tommy for their sakes. These little ones
seemed precious to me, as they could be to
one who had not children of his own & own.
For my part I am very happy. Mr. Butler has
sent her two boys to Hall's School & Char-
lotte has also sent her boy. Elizabeth asked
about Anna, I told her she had gone to the
Lyn School. She said she was afraid she
could not be able to do much. I set her right
on that score. I intend to write to Annie soon
and also to the little ones at home. Press them
all to your heart for me, I tell them how
much I love them & want them to be good
children. Does Paul miss me? & Does Sammie
ask after me? Good night dearest,
May God bless you all.

Your own Ailing husband
H. W. Andrews

I really am very sorry
new and important today.

Am in a little trouble, about
getting a new ~~book~~ ^{book}. The
gentle man who owns the one I
use, has an opportunity to sell
it, and may want it this
evening. I cannot yet afford
to buy. I am in a little
trouble. It is only a little, for
the Lord will provide. I do not
know where I can get one, but
our Heavenly Father has taken
care of me heretofore. My trust
is in him. I have some work
to do tomorrow. Which probably
must be put off. I want
you to feel ~~assured~~ ^{assured} that I am
in very good spirits. Health
good; hopes high; desire to see
you & my little ones, very great.

Mr. Auden's female cat (that
is the I. Myself) a ^{small} ~~small~~ ^{cat} this
afternoon with her boy Charley
a pretty little fellow, found her
husband sleeping in the large
order. - Got the boy per-
cious & darling. Saw 4 kittens
being little darlings.
I am your husband
John C. C.

Neen Wynetka on the
Chicago & Milwaukee R.R.
about 17 miles from Chicago
May 23. 1856

My dear wife

I came here on Mon-
day to buy about 200 acres of land
in five acre lots, and I shall job about
all day, & feel not a little tired
when night comes. I have had no
opportunity to write before I only
write now to tell you that I am
well, and if life & health are spared
till the Sabbath will try to
write a letter. I have not rec'd
any of your letters since I left, as
there is no Post Office here, but hope
to have an opportunity to send to
tomorrow. I am well & in good
spirits, but expect to be somewhat
tired when I get through tramp-
ing through these woods. Give much
love to my dear children.

Your own dear husband. H.W.

It will take at least another week
& perhaps ten days to finish this
book.



Mr. Charlotte A. Van Cleve

Ann Arbor

Michigan

Chicago Sabbath Morning, June 1st 1858

My own true loving wife

I returned home last evening about 8 o'clock by the Milwaukee train; went immediately to Woodwidges office, & found two letters from my precious wife, one of which contained the two from the Kalamazoo. It is needless to tell you that it removed a vast load from my heart to learn that our dear boy was safe. I trust I am truly thankful to our Heavenly Father for his kindness, & I pray that we may soon have the happiness of seeing him. I have no doubt we shall see some change in him; perhaps the shooting of Prof. Gale Cross has added considerably to his stature. From his uncle's remark, I presume he is an inveterate Hunter. Do you not now feel more impatient than ever to see them? It is my ardent prayer that they may have a safe & expeditious journey across the Country. It is my present intention to accompany them to Ann Arbor. I am very anxious to see you all, & know of no better time to make my visit. I think I said nothing to

Malcolm about Paul. I do not think it so ^{an} advisable
for me to give up my business here. Have just made
a beginning I wish to persevere. I was very tired
when I returned last evening, having worked hard
for the past two weeks, & after reading & re-reading
my letters, retired to bed about 11 o'clock & slept
soundly till noon & then morning. I scratched
my foot slightly in the woods on Friday & gave
it another scratch yesterday in the same place,
where there is a hole in my boot, & walking all
day, inflamed it somewhat, so that it was rather
painful to wear my boot; & as I had also scratched
the lining of my coat somewhat, I concluded
to stay home this morning, & not go to church. I went
to my boarding house & breakfast in my slippers.
I did not sit with my boot on last night.

I have not quite completed my work, but
will be obliged to return & spend two or three
more days there. May not go back till Tuesday
or Wednesday as I wish to clear a heap of what
I have done. I am sorry that I had not oppor-
tunity to write to you more frequently while I was
away for I know you were disappointed when the

children returned from the office day after day with
no letter from father. I am delighted to hear
such good accounts of the dear children. Tell
my dear Seymour that God is with us, as he
was with the Israelites, and that we are as un-
grateful as they, when we disobey him. I am
glad they take so much interest in hearing you
read God's Holy Word. You are taking the best
course to keep the children from playing in the streets,
by amusing them at home. I want you to tell them
all that father loves them dearly, and hopes to see
them when Malcolm comes home. Perhaps it would
be pleasant to take them by surprise, but it may
be a still greater pleasure to look forward to the
meeting. God may order otherwise, but this is my
present wish & intention. I am glad that my dear
Sister has no more aches. You must take good care
of her. Tell Mortie that father will not forget to invest
his five cents for him. Tell Sammy that father hopes
to see him soon. Dear boy, I am glad he does not
forget me. Tell Horace I am glad to hear good
accounts of him & that he has heard from his fa-
ther & mother and has a prospect of seeing them this summer.

men. — As soon as I get through my present
work, I intend to look around for a house. I shall
make it my business. Dr Andrews thinks I may
find a house, on what is called the West side
of the river a mile & a half from the Tremont
House for 200 or 250 dollars. He says rents are
much cheaper out there than they are near
the Lake & the river. They are cheaper on the
North side than on the South, I do not object
to the location if we can get in a good neighbor-
hood, but he does not like to set down among low
Irish & Dutch. Rents will no doubt be lower
here in the course of three or four years, but
at present the supply of houses is not equal
to the demand. — I regret to hear of Mr Agnews
misfortunes. It appeared to be an extensive spe-
culation at the first, & several times I made in-
quiries respecting his prospects, & he always told me
he was doing very well; and of course I supposed
that he would get safely through it. I do not have
dared to risk one fourth as much as he did.
The interest on the sum he was to pay for his
property must be as much as his support as
comfortably. — I hope Estlin will get a good
husband. — I made inquiries today about Mr
Clark. He is to preach here next Sabbath. If
we get settled here, it will be quite an inducement

[June 1, 1856]

To your mother to make us a visit, for Mr Clark
is a great favorite of her. — Have you heard
yet of Ellen's marriage? — Have you written
to your mother & Mary, since you heard from
Malcolm? He says we are the only ones of the fa-
mily that he has written to at this time & wishes
us to send round a circular to the rest. I was
obliged to read his letter twice before I could make
it out. — Evening. Had asparagus & peas
for dinner, & straw berries from Cincinnati for sup-
per. I have a very comfortable boarding house.
There are at present but few boarders, about a
half dozen. The table is always neat and the
fare good. I have described my sleeping ap-
paratus. It is not particularly inviting & not at
all luxurious, but as I go to bed late, I soon fall
into the arms of Morpheus & sleep soundly till
morning. It is not like a home sleep however,
My darling wife this separation is painful to
me. I miss my wife and miss my children
I am willing to labor hard as long as my Heavenly
Father gives me strength; but when I sit at table
I wish to see my wife around the same board; &

When the labors of the day are over, I wish to
enjoy your society. Now I sit at meals with
strangers, and my evenings are spent in my
solitary office. Here I take much comfort in writ-
ting to you, and praying for you & my dear chil-
dren. But how much more pleasant it wd be
to converse with you & pray with you. I do not
murmur however, & thank God that it is as
well with me as it is. That we are all fed
& clothed & sheltered; that we all enjoy good health
and that I am able to labor for the support of my
family, and that I continually hear good news
from you all. May he continue to take care of
us in his own way, and fill our hearts with
love to him for all his goodness. I have tried
to pray with you this afternoon, & I trust that
God will hear our prayers & restore us to each other
in good time. The bells are now tolling for church
but as I cannot wear my boot comfortably I will
not go this evening; my foot feels much better & will
no doubt be well enough by Tuesday for me to go to
work again with comfort. What a blessing the Sab-
bath is & how much we sh^d prize it. Thousand who

who have been worn out by the toils of the week
have been restored to health & soundness by the
rest of this day. Last week, or rather the week be-
fore one of my chain bearers suffered so much with
blistered feet that he c^d scarcely work on Saturday.
When Sabbath came he rested & on Monday was
quite well. So it is worth man & beast. Almight^y
God in infinite wisdom constituted this day of
rest. As it is a day of rest, we sh^d permit both body
& mind to rest, leave the world & its cares to the labor-
ing days of the week & think of Heaven & its joys.
I feel thankful that our dear children take
so much interest in Bible stories. As soon as they
commit the commandments perfectly they shall
have testaments & as soon as they learn the whole
of the Shorter Catechism so as to answer the ques-
tions perfectly from beginning to the end they shall
have a handsome Bible. — Malcom ap-
pears to be well pleased with the Blackfeet country, &
speaks of returning. I do not think it wd be well
for him to do so. He sh^d go to school more. He is
very deficient, as his letter plainly shows. If I
sh^d have business enough to occupy the half of

his time & he sh^d study the other half, it w^d be
a good thing for him. He sh^d come enough to
clothe & board himself respectably & comfort-
ably & at the same time be improving his
mind & fitting himself for business. I fear
he has not cultivated his mind much
among the Blackfeet. I have not much con-
fidence in their schools. We can talk of
this at another time, I mention it for you
to think about. I suspect he is quite a fa-
vorite with the Blackfeet.

I feel sorry for Mrs. Hawkins. You say she
is looking forward for herself & children.
What has become of Hawkins? Where is he
going?— Tell Sammy he must not cry for
Papa. Papa hopes to come home soon & kiss
Sammy & take him in his arms. Does Paul ever
cry for me?— Kiss my dear children for me.
I sh^d kiss you good night. May God bless you
my darling wife. Take good care of yourself
& the children. Do not work hard. If you feel
exhausted, drink beer, it may do you good.
Your loving husband. P. M. Can Cleve

I practiced 3 hours
yesterday and practice
the piece nearly
all the time.
It is Bonquet & Ross.

I could not get a
good pen this
letter would say
as much.

Mother.

That would be
the love
but I am
at N. H.

Brooklyn July 31st /56

You see I am here again.
I got back Sunday Morning, before
breakfast. I expected to leave N. H.
Saturday Morning, but we got to the boat
just too late, or rather we did not get
to the boat so I had to wait. Uncle
Johnson had come to N. H. Friday evening,
and was coming back Saturday evening. So
I came with him, we started at eleven
and got to N. H. the next morning at four
or near that. But we did not leave the boat
until after five. I like Uncle Alfred
very much, and his children who were
all N. H. at the time. I was
there and were to come home this
week. Then they are going to leave the
city and when they get back in
September, they want me to make them
a visit. Friday June 4 I went to
call on Mrs. Peniques. I will tell you

what a funny time we had. Just the house is a very good one but the yard was very dirty and there were playing around some half dozen very dirty children and sitting on the steps was a woman with a baby in her arms all had a dirty look. Julie asked if Mrs. Henniges lived there, we were told yes, but that woman made us motion and we were about to ring the bell when she got up and came in to the parlor with the baby in her arms, at first we did not know but she might possibly be the lady herself but we concluded she must be a servant so we gave out names. When we got into the parlor we saw sitting by the window what we supposed was a very young lady. She had a thin pink dress on very low in the neck. When she heard Julia's name she said in a very Maine St. Louis way, "You have a southern name Miss Mills. are you a Southerner?" Julie told her no, she lived in New Haven but had called with me as Mrs. N. met my mother in A. C. The young lady said she believed

she had heard Mrs. N. speak of you and she would go and speak to her mother. So she ran up stairs when she came back she said that her mother & sister had had a sheepmaker all day and were sleeping for the evening. So we expected to see Mrs. H. come down gorgeously arrayed. The young lady went on talking, she said the town was very full now that her "two little sons!" had arrived very unexpectedly, and she did not know what to do with them. We found out that her name was Mrs. Thint that she is twenty five or ^{years old} ~~old~~ and I think Mrs. H. is her step-mother. Once a little girl some six or seven years old came in to the room with her long hair down her back and she was telling some story about Dick. Mrs. Thint said, "Go to your nurse my child, and tell her to prevent him." Julia asked if that was her child she said "Oh! no, but I have children as old as that." she has four children. Mrs. Henniges came down dressed in a calico dress but it looked very sweet and cool and we would not have thought and thought about it

her daughter had not said that she was
dying for the evening I was very much
pleased with her thought, she is very much
of a tender heart. We were going to call on
Mrs Butler & Mrs Brewster but Julie did
not know them nor even know where they lived
and she thought it would be very awkward
for us both and she thought you would
forgive me for not calling, and she said
you probably thought that she knew them,
and her mother used to know them but
she did not and you will forgive
me won't you? I went with cousin Anna
to the grave yard on Thursday. I told her
you had a little sister buried in Mr.
Brewster's lot but she did not know where
it was. and I had to come away without
going to the grave I am very sorry, indeed
mother, but you know I could not help. I
saw Aunt Margaret's & Mary Anna's
and Cousin Elizabeth's graves.

Good bye now dear dear Mother I
must take this letter to the office and
then come home and practise.

Good bye you dear Mother and all the
children. Kiss them all for me
Your own daughter

Mrs Charlotte C.

Ann Arbor

Michigan

Chicago June 22^d 1856. Sabbath afternoon

My own very precious wife

Some of Friday, don't rec^d yesterday, I it grieved me to speak to learn of your disappointment at not hearing from me early last week. I say it grieved me a fresh; For I was grieved when I found on Tuesday last, that my letter had not been taken to the office, & then again yesterday when I read of your disappointment. I have been looking, oh how anxiously, for Mal^d to come, but he does not come. I have been to the Central R.R. Dept several times, but not knowing by what route he may come, it appears to be useless. There are so many roads & so many depots. I must still wait, & look, & be in suspense.

Summer has at length arrived. It was so warm this morning, that I hesitated somewhat about going to Church, having no coat but one that is very heavy & warm, & that somewhat the house for wear. I went however; did not suffer from the heat; and was amply repaid for my walk, by hearing an excellent sermon from a clergyman from Cleveland, Mr. Mann. We may hear more about him, for I do not be surprised if he were invited to take Mr. Richard's place. I have heard no one speak of his sermon this morning, for I left Church immediately after the services were closed & spoke to no one. I was much interested & I trust benefited by his discourse. His text was from Romans XIV. 7th verses. He spoke of the necessity of giving up

To have heard of Mr. Mann's good spirits, ready but not hasty, any way to see you all, your much for him, New York children, how many families?

H. W. Van Cleave

our will entirely to Christ; of our absolute dependence upon him; that we sh^d be willing to take him by the hand & let him lead us forth, though all might be dark around us & trust to him as a child trusts to his parent. - That we sh^d consecrate ourselves entirely to His service. - And sh^d imitate his Charity, always ready to make every allowance for the weakness & imperfections of others. - I listened to the discourse as one meant for me and shall ever rejoice that I heard it.

I thought of you in church & of my dear children, but do I not think of you ^{always}? My dear wife, I am an exile from my home, and could never endure this separation from my wife and children were it not for my trust in our Heavenly Father. He will take care of us and in his own good time will restore us to each other. He will provide a home for us. Let us take Him by the hand, and let Him lead us. Though all may now look dark, He can turn the darkness into light.

I do want to see you all: My darling wife; my sweet daughter Lizzie; my precious Seymour, our summer child with his thoughtful face; my darling Eddie, with his rosy cheeks; my dear little Sammy with his curly hair I saw just back hair in church this morning; and my sweet little Paul with his bright eyes & laughing face. I want to see dear Horace too & I know he will be glad to see his uncle. Speaking of uncle reminds me of Mother. I regret to learn that Aunt is considered to be one of the regular visitors at Tom Edwards' establishment. There is but little hope for any of that company.

It is sad to see a young girl like Mary Lawrence rapidly hastening to the grave without any hope for the future. How sad for her parents who have no son to leave upon!

I am glad you hear such comforting news from our dear Anna. I hope she will be able to visit New Haven & that I will be able to send her some funds to pay her traveling expenses. Dear child I wish we could make her a visit. How absurd to talk of visiting her, of making a journey together to New York, but stranger things than this have happened. It is a great comfort to think that she is spending her time pleasantly & profitably. - Tell Mortie that I am glad to learn that he has got next to hand. I hope he will study hard and be up head the next time you visit. I think it is wise in giving up his books this winter weather. Students sh^d have some recreation. Lizzie must practice faithfully on the piano. I think she has a taste for music & will make a good singer as well as performer. I sh^d like to have the boys learn to play on the piano. When Albin comes back he must give Seymour his violin, as he has no disposition himself to play. Perhaps Seymour would like to learn to play on it. I want very much to send for my flute but do not know how to do it. When my dear children ask you when father is coming home, tell them he hopes to come very soon and take them all in his arms.

Working prospects appear to be very fair. He has labored hard and is now reaping his reward. When his defamers see his success they will begin to look upon him as one who is not so very bad, after all; for they measure men's excellence by his prosperity. As long as he was poor, he was a miserable outcast. I sh^d like to hear from the boys. How does Edw^d prosper? Is Edw^d contented & happy? I suppose he has to be both as long as he is with Mort. I am glad that Edw^d thinks so much of Anna. She always makes friends when she is with those who can appreciate her loneliness. You must take good care of yourself. Do not work hard this warm weather. May God bless you my darling. Love much love to my dear Edw^d.

Monday morning. As I was walking to Church last evening, not thinking of shame or disgrace, I suddenly found some one take me by the arm very familiarly. I ^{walk by my sister} ~~take her by the arm~~ at the same time addressing me, on looking around who sh^d be but Everett. He had come in from Jacksonville to make some purchases & had observed me as I passed the Hotel where he lodged. We walked along to church & after words came to my office where we chatted till midnight. I think he is getting along very well. He left this morning. — No news yet of Malcolm. May God watch over them & soon bring them home. — Heard an excellent sermon last night, on the duty of mothers to pray for their children & the efficacy of those prayers. Text: — Layon Phineas woman's intercession for her daughter. Wish you had been by my side

Chicago June 15th, 1856.

My dear William W. Phelps

Your letter written Thursday night when you were tired and sleepy was rec^d yesterday, and most agreeable to me. I had somewhat difficulty when I read it; had been out all day manning through the loose sand on the Lake shore carrying a heavy transit on my shoulder, and had tasted nothing since breakfast, - saving a little tobacco, - not even water. You must not think I suffered from hunger or thirst. I have been out three days the past week & each day have gone without my dinner; cared nothing about it & when evening came did not feel particularly hungry. Yesterday the weather was cool & I did not get thirsty, consequently drank no water. I am under the impression we eat too often, from habit. I have never suffered when I have gone without my dinner, & at evening do not eat more than an ordinary supper.

I regretted to learn that Mr. Platt was dead, although, I never expected he would recover.

W. W. Phelps wrote the left page Thursday evening

Malcolm must certainly be along soon. I
am daily looking for him. How very anxious
to see him, and with him to make a visit
to my dear wife and children. I must soon
have soon or the children will forget how I
look. Perhaps they will now readily recog-
nize me. I am glad my letter to say
now does so heartily welcome, it may
encourage me to write more. I am glad
too, that it excited no curious feelings,
but that each child took it to himself.

God has indeed been kind to me during
my absence from home, in sending me con-
stantly such good news from you and my
dear children. I have great cause for thank-
fulness in his giving me employment. I have
not constant employment, but am making
a fair beginning. There is something to be
learned in seeing here where property
is considered so valuable and it is best
to go along carefully & do well what is en-
trusted to us. In that way I can earn a
good name, and then need not fear if

life & health are spared. It is some time
since I have seen Mrs. Stiergie. I have
been absent from town so much of late,
and when here have been so busy that
I have not had time to visit anywhere.

I am glad you have at length heard
from Rev. Richard. I sent you word of
Ellen's marriage some time since, & you
may tell them you rec'd the news via Chicago.
— You ask about the Cousins; they are
all here and well I believe. I saw Re-
becca, Louisa & John in church this morning.
Mrs. Wadsworth may have been there, but I did
not notice. Mrs. Wadsworth expects to go
East soon, if she has not started already.
When I last saw her she spoke of starting
on Friday I think, but whether it was last
Friday or next, am uncertain.

I am very anxious to see you very pressing
one and to have you all here with me. It
will not answer to spend our time in this
way. I am heartily tired of this long separation.
I trust our Heavenly Father will so prosper me

as to enable me to bring you all here before
many months. But I do not deserve any pros-
perity at his hands. I am a poor, miserable,
ungrateful sinner, and do not love him as
I should for all his kindness to me heretofore.
You must continue to pray for me
my Darling. — You seldom say any
thing very particular about Eddie & Sam.
Dear little boys, I want to know how they
are prospering. Is Eddie attentive to his books?
Does he love to go to school? Does he improve
in reading? How does Sam spend his
time? Has he learned his letters? Does Sig-
gie study any now? Does she take any in-
terest in music? Have you any leisure
to give her lessons? What is Seymour study-
ing? Is he as fond of his book as ever? How
does Horace get along with his studies? Have
the children grown any since I left? It
appears to me so long since I have seen them
that they must all have grown & changed
considerably. Dear children, how much I
long to see them & take them in my arms. I judge
from what you say of Paul, I ^{may} expect to see a boy

[June 15, 1856]

bright boy. It is a great comfort to me to hear from you so good accounts of the conduct of the children. May God bless your instructions to them; May He bless you and bless our dear children. Oh how I long to be with you. What a comfort it would be to spend my Sabbaths with you. Excepting when at Church & at my meals, my time to day has been spent in my solitary office. Dr. A has been in occasionally, but most of the time I have been alone. As I must be here, I do not mind spending the day alone for I have good opportunity to read, meditate & pray; and also to write to you. But I want to be with you & have my dear children around me. God will order all aright, & we will yet see that he does all things well; and I trust we shall praise him for all his goodness & wisdom.

June 17th I cannot account for my not finishing & sending off this letter yesterday. I was somewhat busy, closing up some surveys, that is making plats, calculations & getting my pay for

them. On Saturday I did a small job for John Woodbridge, that occupied about 1 1/2 hours on my return from another piece of work. He asked me what I charged, I told him, nothing. With this he was not satisfied & gave me \$10. Said he wd have had to pay that or more. — Thus far since I have been surveying I have done better than I did at Goring last year. I have made \$3 ^{since the 16th of Feb. when I commenced surveying,} per day, over my expenses for board washing & travelling expenses since I left home. I have made about \$1.90 per day over these expenses, counting every day since I left home, Sabbath & all. I am encouraged to believe that I shall do well.

This morning I rec'd your sweet letter of Sabbath last. It cheered me much, & as you may judge I am in high glee, for my spirits were good before I received it. — I certainly have great cause for thankfulness. Good news from home; good health; good spirits; work to do; although not constant employment, still every encouragement to hope for success.

I am anxiously & hourly looking for our brother & son. Last evening I started out to call on John

Woodbridge Jr. After walking about two squares it occurred to me that Malcolm might possibly come & not finding anyone in my office, wd be obliged to spend the night without seeing ^{me}. I consequently turned back. He has not yet called. Tell my dear children to keep up good courage, Father hopes to be home soon, — I will not be able to spend much time at home for I have two or three jobs engaged, that I must do as soon as possible.

I am glad that you heard a good sermon on the Sabbath. It must have been a great treat. With regard to politics, I hear of nothing new but Kansas, Anti-Slavery & Pro-Slavery. I am a Republican, strongly opposed to the extension of Slavery. A party of about 50 will leave here in a day or two for Kansas. They go to settle with a determination to maintain the cause of Freedom. This is of course Douglass' strong hold, but nevertheless I believe that Illinois will go for Freedom at the next election by a large majority. The Buchanan party cannot get up an excitement, the people cannot hear of

Slavery. — I am glad to learn that you have
been able to let the children so comfort-
ably & sweetly. I do not wonder that people tell
you that they are the best & sweetest looking
children in town. Tell them all for me man-
ny times. I do want to see them. Tell them
that some poor children here make money
by selling newspapers; there are the news boys,
and a noisy set they are. Some peddle apples,
some oranges; some flowers; some sea shells;
some various notions; some gather rags & pa-
per in the streets; a very few beg. I have not
noticed a child begging but once or twice.
I saw an old cripple on Sabbath last, &
wanted to help him but his face looked
so woe like an old taper that I passed
on. I felt confident that he spent much that
was given him for good. I am always willing
to help the poor, but feel unwilling to bestow an
alms when it will be spent for intoxicating
drink. — Good bye my darling. God grant
that we may soon be restored to each other.

Your own loving husband, H. P. Van Allen

Chicago, Wed^g eve^g May 7th 1856.

My own precious wife,

I have about completed my map. Have only the names of the streets to put on, that will take but an hour or two. Have been working on it some today, well as I have but a common table, have been obliged to stoop a great deal & as a consequence, feel quite tired. With my tired feeling, have a slight touch of the blues & want you by my side to comfort me. I want to lay my head on your lap & have you to talk to me. The bell has just struck nine, have been to prayer meeting and am now alone. I have a room mate, Mr Wiley, junior Editor of the Prairie Farmer, but he is out & may not be in till bed time. I know my dear wife, you sympathize with me, although I cannot hear it from your own lips, it nevertheless is a consolation. Do not think that I am very blue, it is only a little & is beginning to disappear since I have commenced writing. In fact I am not so tired as I was. Now all this no doubt must be very interesting & instructive to you & you must give me credit accordingly. — Mrs Kling's book, was

Write Mrs Ward if the post will my wife is for me I will let
\$2.50 per in.

Money has made its appearance, Price \$250, beyond my means, consequently have not seen it. — It has been raining for two days, though not very hard, & the weather continues quite cold, so cold that it is uncomfortable without a fire. I suppose it is so with you, & I fear you are too ill to get wood. Tell me how you manage. I am glad to learn that the cow does so well, it must be a great help to you, & it is an evidence that our dear little boys are faithful & take good care of her. — rents here are enormous. If the Wm. house were in some locality in this City it would rent for \$400 or \$500. When a man builds he calculates that the rent will pay for the house in three or four years. It is impossible that such a state of things ~~will~~ exists much longer. There must be a change & a very great one before long. In order to meet their expenses, merchants must get a great profit on their goods, and every thing is very high. Goods are far cheaper in Galena than they are here. Butter can be bought in the County for 15 cents, as soon as it is brought here it is sold for 25 & 30. When I was at Muncie butter was bringing from 15 to 18. The Country people do not attend market here as they do in Cincinnati. They send their produce to the commission Merchants, & they sell to dealers here. In a few years

there will be a change & we can live on as small an income at Chicago, as we can anywhere.

Thursday, May 5th It was so uncomfortably cold last evening that I put aside my pen & paper I went to bed suffering somewhat with tooth-ache. Soon after, my tooth ached violently, and my only means of relief was in prayer to God for assistance. The pain left me after a while, but it was long before I could sleep. When I awoke this morning, the clouds had passed away, the Sun was shining clear & bright, and we have now indications of warmer weather. But I cannot say that I feel as cheerful & happy as I sh^d. God has been merciful & kind to me, far above my deserts, but this separation from my wife & children bears heavily upon me, and it is difficult for me to appear cheerful when my heart is sad. Let us pray together over this subject next Sabbath afternoon, humbling ourselves before our Heavenly Father; and in the mean time let us pray over it. He has promised to hear our prayers, & He will hear us, will answer & bless us. — You must not think precious me, that I am very unhappy, or unusually so; My spirits are less buoyant at times than at others, and just now they are

Slightly depressed. You know that I love my home,
the society of my wife & children, I cannot be expected
that I sh^d be perfectly happy when separated from them.
They are all very dear to me, & my love for them increases
with my years. Pray for me my darling, pray that
may give me wisdom, grace & strength to know I do his
will, & that I may never offend him by murmuring at
my lot. — I hope you will find your paper some-
what pleasant, & that you may take much comfort in visit-
ing the children. How I sh^d love to see the little blessing.
I hope Seymour has not forgotten his multiplication table
that he knew so well, & that, and that all are making
good progress in their studies. Has Sammie received
his letters? Mortie has no doubt improved much in
reading; Horace is going to astonish and delight his
father with his improvement, and Siggie, what can
I say of my Siggie? She is a great help & comfort to her
mother, and will soon be able to write long letters to her
father. Kiss them all for me, & my sweet Paul, darling
child I do want to see him. Good bye, my own dear
wife. Take good care of yourself & try to good care of
yourself & do not be discouraged. God will provide for
Your own loving husband A. P. Van Cleave

Afternoon. Am in bed. 11/10/18

[C.O.V. birthday, 1855]

How are the rest of my dear children
Anna & Lizzie; Seymour, Ed die & Sam?
Do they miss me? I ^{so} liked to have
seen Sammy ^{face}, to know he wanted
to see his uncle, thinking about
Pom boy, I did not think he would
much. How do the children get on?
& how do they behave? I love to hear
to all. I am a great deal better than
the you have heard me say
about some Agnew, I was at
at Peach Orchard &c. &c.

I am getting along very well with
my work. Have no difficulty. All
goes right thus far. Do not know how
long I may be employed here, Perhaps
a month or six weeks longer. It
may be two months, All uncertainly.
Must be on the look-out for something
else in the mean time. I like to
make enough to pay my little debts
A.C. & my rent. What have you
about meeting the friends in the
I do not want to go just now.

for one. I think that is enough for poor
folks. — I suppose you have an
abundance of Currants now, and I'd
like to help eat some of your pies. — How
is our president getting along? Is he
well? He has begun to grow, and
bring himself into notice. Perhaps I will
make a change in him by the time I
see him. — I hope to take good care of him
and I hope to get him out of his mother's
hands. — I hope to get him out of his mother's
hands.

My folks are doing good service, but
will not last forever; they are beginning
to show the effects of age. I sh^d like you
to have a half dozen made for me.
I do not want them made of unbleached
cotton.

I send \$35.00 and hope it will relieve
you somewhat. You will pay Mrs. Wom-
ber \$10. that I borrowed of him, & thank
him too. If you could spare \$5. for Mrs
Casalier I would be glad. — I will try
to send you \$15. next Monday. —
Good bye. May God bless you, my
dear wife, my dear children
and my dear husband.
J. P. C. C. C.



Mrs. Charlotte O. Van Buren

Ann Arbor

Michigan

more interested in me one is worth ten.
I wish you were able to go out to
see Mrs. Chase soon. Mr. Chase will
probably visit here in the course of
two weeks, and I will wish him
to call on you. I do not know when
I will be able to leave for a long
time. If Malinda comes to see me
wish you she could come to see me.
In about a month I may possibly
have my work in such a state that
I can leave for a few days. I do
not know of any thing that I forgot to bring
excepting one or two night shirts, & that
I can manage to get along without.
I have a very comfortable room
with a single bed, large enough for
two. If I wish I can have a large
room by going into the third story.
I forgot to mention that I took a hard
glance at the State Prison when I
was out Jackson. Had not time to go in.
It is a gloomy institution, number-
ing 283 boarders. I believe it does not
take day scholars. Give much love to
my darling children. God bless you my
precious wife & our long husband.

Reading The Magnificent
Capital of the magnificent
State of Michigan June 14, 55
My own precious wife

I had as pleasant a ride
in the cars yesterday as could be expected
and reached Jackson
a little after twelve and found the
stage had left for Lansing early in
the morning. Had to stay then till 2 P.M.
I improved the opportunity to look around
the town. It is not as pretty a village
as I once knew. I noticed quite a number
of the houses of which they
feel somewhat proud. I think I saw
one that is a fine house.
I do not think the design can compare with
the one at R.A. Some other may be
when this is completed if he does not
spend too much at the cost of it.

We traveled in a pleasant road from
Jackson to Eaton Rapids & through a
beautiful rolling country (about 25 miles)
I am interested in this place. The road

is decidedly bad. We took supper at
Linton's, left there about sunset
and reached this place about 10 o'clock
in the morning. 17 miles in about 5 hours.
We stopped at the Lonsing house. I
slept & breakfasted there. At the break-
fast table I saw General Lonsing.
I spoke to him after breakfast, and was
also introduced by Starkweather of
Ohio to Gov. Perry here & Mr. Stearns the
Secy of State to whom I reported for
duty afterwards at his office. At the
Auditor General's office I saw Mr. Platt
and was introduced to sundry com-
missioners. Mr. Platt advised me to board
at the Pleasant house, as it was the
most quiet & pleasant hotel in the
city. He said his wife boarded there.
I concluded to do so and moved my
trunk accordingly. At dinner he
introduced me to his wife.

I have seen Mr. Chase several
times in the course of the day. He is
well. I have spent the day in many

taking all necessary precautions to get
back to my home. I in the mean time
have thought much of my dear wife
& children. I was much better pleased
with the appearance of things than I
expected to be, and I do not anticipate
any particular trouble in doing
the work that is expected of me. You
think of me, I know you do. You
must pray for me. I hope to hear
soon that you are better than you
were when I left home. May God bless
I keep you and hope for my
dear children. The morning
I left I saw our little Eddie at the
 depot waiting for the train. Some of
Brother's friends told me to take him
home. I told Eddie to tell you that
you must not let him go down there.
He said he did not get on the train
and was on one of them when he spoke
to, but the one that the Express train
runs on. You must keep a close watch
on him and not let him go there any



Mr. Carl A. C. Van Hook

Ann Arbor

Michigan

Chicago May 15th 1856. (Thursday)

My own darling wife

As my letters visit Detroit occasionally, it may be necessary for me to put them in the office on Thursday evening, instead of Friday, to insure their reaching you on Saturday. When I have room and abundance of leisure, I wish to write three times a week. But when I am ~~responsible~~ ~~as~~ ~~out~~ of town, I must content myself with writing as I can find opportunity. Nothing more has been said about those matters of which I spoke on my return from Detroit and this morning I was feeling somewhat discouraged. I laid my plan to before my Mother, and then went out to see what I could learn. I called at the office of a Surveyor who has a great deal to do, and he told me he would like to get me to do a job for him if I were not engaged, but that he could only afford to pay what he paid his assistants, that is, \$2.00 per day. Having nothing to do, of course I took it up. It is on the Lake Shore about 20 miles from here and may take a

work or more. I consider this as far better than
lying idle, as far as pay is concerned. In the 2nd
place, I will be getting acquainted, & this job may
bring me more. I wish Malcolm was here to help
me. I must hire men to carry the chain. I do not
know where to find them, there are idlers always
in the streets but I mean such men as I want.
I wish very much to raise money enough to pur-
chase a few antislavery tools. A transit, a level
a box of drawing and sundries & some other articles.
It will cost me about \$300. But as I cannot
raise the funds at present I must do the best
I can and get along with as little as possible.
As yet instead of \$300, I have paid but 300, just an
amount nothing. I find it very inconvenient to work
without tools. I shall do just despair, when or how
I am to raise the money I know not. I am very much
absolutely need a Transit, which can be bought
for \$120 or 125 but where to get it to come from. With the
transit I do hope to be enabled soon to buy the other
instruments. I have also noticed the poor labouring
under every disadvantage for the want of a few
dollars to purchase the instruments for their labors.

If we are jolly, it is like Mark Tappan, and
very favorable circumstances.

My darling wife I often hear myself asking: How
long must I live in this way separated from all
that are most dear to me here on earth, wife &
children. It is a great trial to me & I know it
is a trial to you and in addition to this you have
the responsible charge of training & watching over
the dear children. I feel for you my dear
wife (but cannot for you) & oftentimes think that
your burden must be greater than you have
strength to bear. I often think that I am so oc-
cupied with my own affairs that I never think
of yours. I think of you much & try to pray for
you my precious one. By the time this reaches
you I suppose Mr. & Mrs. Follen will have
made their visit. I wish that I could have been
with you to see them. I suppose you will then
visit the child at the Peach Orchard. When
you write give me news of them. I am look-
ing daily for news of Malcolm. Sometimes I
see a youth in the street about his size, and
form, and you begin to examine closely to be

if it may not be the dear boy, little does he
know of our anxiety about him. —

Chicago has been remarkably healthy
the past winter & spring. Most friends
that I can learn of are very trying on young
children in the summer. I have no doubt
that it will be better for Paul & Anne
to remain in New Haven this summer.
There is a great ~~amount of~~ ^{amount of} the street
since the opening of the season. Every one
is in a hurry, either in pursuit of his own
business, or to keep out of the way of those who
have business, or to get light the middle
you hear the rattling of wheels, ^{in the streets} & the tramping
of feet on the sidewalks.

My dear friends, I am sure
shoulder for mine, & that they must not
forget me. My dear Paul will not know
me & how he sees me, & that grieves me.
Pray for me my precious wife.
Love from your husband,
P. A. C. C. C.

from Hann



My dear Mr. Webb
I have just received
your letter of the 10th inst.
and am glad to hear
of your success.
Yours truly
Hann

Brooklyn Aug 21st 1860

My dear father

My dear father

for St. Pauls. we thought

he would not go until Thursday

but a letter he received from

mother this afternoon tells him that

mother will be there in a few days

so he will have to go as soon as

possible. I would send this letter

to him, but you may not see him in Cali-

ca go, so it will be safer to send it

by mail. Why don't you write to

Dear Mother dear? I believe that last letter you have not forgotten me have you? I had a delightful visit at the ... I did not get as well acquainted with her as I did with Julie, who is very pretty and lively. William is a year or two older than I and East Rock and ... is very smart. I like very much place ... indeed he has just finished ... the Admire year. Annie is a ... year younger than I. But is a great deal smaller she is a very lively girl. I like them very much.

Johnston is a very nice child,
so is Alfred. I like them of
little Seymour. I like Uncle
Libbs very much, but he is very
absent minded is he not?

Uncle Alfred went to New Haven the
Friday before I came back, and
then came home with me
Saturday evening. What a pleasant

Man he is. — but I forgot to
tell you that we to day and make
you go to New Haven to live there
is a large house right next to the



Peach Orchard May 30th 56

Dear Charlotte,

I am writing a line to inform you of all the news of P.O. - Ellen was married on the 21st; he will not be in Michigan as soon as they first intended, as there has not yet been a rise in the Sandy, and Mr. Mellen does not like to leave so many boats ~~on~~ the river, if possible to get them down, and will wait until the middle of July when, (should there still be no water) you may expect them. Should Malcolm arrive, I wish that he would bring Hunter with him here, as it will be a good time for him to visit P.O., and his little cousins would be delighted to see him, and Ellen would be so happy to show him all the wonderful things in the wild woods of Kentucky, if you could come with him it would be too much happiness for us all, and I cannot ask you to again make such a difficult

journeys perhaps Malcolm will make his
visit here, just in time for Mr. Mellen to accompany
him back to Chequamegon, and they will make
you a good visit; and when they return,
I can make you my promised visit ~~visit~~
I do not yet know what Cherry is going to do,
altho she promised to come up with Malcolm,
should there be any water in the Sandy at the
time. — Lucine has just run in and asked
me to give her love to you, and Lizzie, and
three kisses too. Ellen sends much love to
all, and will I think be very happy when
she returns home, and her excellent memory
will enable her to relate many wonderful
things, which would escape the notice of one
less observant — when did you hear from
Mr. Winckler? is he still pleased with
Chicago? 'tis Mr. Mellen's present intention
to visit the St. Clair land, and see what
is best to be done with it — you had best
in writing short, just mention ^{the} time. Ellen
will be likely to visit N.Y. as he will look

for her much sooner, just say that she is
waiting for the moving of the waters —
she sends much love to you all, and
has just gone down to visit Mrs. Snow
to come up and stay with us until
tomorrow when they expect to leave for Detroit,
I hope you will see her, she can tell you
all you wish to know about us —
I hope and trust that ^{your} Malcolm will return
safe and well; perfectly satisfied with his
experience of Indian life, and prepared to
enjoy, and appreciate, civilization, with its attendant
blessings — Say love to all —

Yours affectionately
Mother

C. C. Clarke



Cincinnati April 10th 56

Dear Charlotte

Since writing you the other day
I have recd a letter from Ellen, and she says
nothing, except that they are all well, and that she
is very busy cutting out work, and preparing to clean
house; and I write you a line this morning
hoping that you will say nothing of the subject
of my last letter, until you hear from Ellen,
as I am much in hopes that she will, before making
any final decision, take her projected journey to
New York - I think it will be best for all parties,
and much more pleasant to my feelings, than the
first arrangement - Mary and family are all well,
I shall most likely return home next week, certainly
if there should be high water in Sunday, which will
enable me to go up in a steam boat - write
immediately and tell me if you have heard from
Ellen, and what it takes so long to get letters from
D.C. - my last one was a private opportunity - do you
expect to visit New York this summer? let me know
and much pleased that all things are prospering

with Mr. Thomson - Most desirous to be happy
if any person does, and I can well imagine the
pride and happiness of his mother, in possessing such
a son - Give my love to Anna, Ellen and I will
write her when I go home - I am seeing my old
friends, and enjoy my visit, attended a Festival
of our Church the other evening, which was very
pleasant - saw many old friends which I should not
have met otherwise - Love to all

may God bless my child -

Your affect. Mother

C. A. Clark

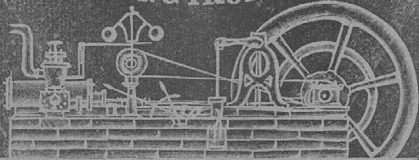
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10
Mrs H. A. Vanhook
Care of H. A. Vanhook

Ann Arbor

Michigan

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Ann Arbor Mich.

[File: June 2, 1855]

Wm. Vernon O'Connell May 2, 1855

Wm. Vernon O'Connell

Wm. Vernon O'Connell, Esq.

Wm. Vernon O'Connell

My dear Sir,
In reply to your letter of 21st inst. at hand
I am sorry to say that the prospects of our
Rail Road are not so brilliant as could
be desired. A good deal of doubt still
hangs over its future. The corps of
Engineers however is organized, the Chief
(Mr. J. B. Fish of Springfield, O.) being the
person to whose efforts its present improved
prospects are, in a great measure, owing.

I hope however, if at any future time I can
be of service to you, that you will not hesi-
tate to let me know. Should your path ever
lie in this direction I shall be happy to see
you.

Very truly yours,

W. P. Buckingham

Here's yours on Saturday hope
to hear a line to day, don't give
up stick and hang if possible
no matter if you cannot get right
into business, you will stay
a while, and you will stay
here. I wish you could find it
worth your while to take as a leave
from here. It is a tedious place
all is going on right, I will
write you in a day or two
all send love, your own wife
G. W.

from you the night before.

The house had a single room and most harmless and I think need not two or three beds in the garden. It was been sent for me again, he refused to let the mother & children stay in the house. Brother and sister this night to the Arbor was entirely satisfied that it is not the place for him. I am glad he has so much friends.

We have put by one the soap grease and the low hand of rain out yet.

Most say the little time but what he is most all day I don't know. He has the power whether he is alive or not.

Remember me to both the boys, and tell the Mr. I hope of him to keep you straight. The children is doing very well.

God bless you my own dear husband and your loving wife
C. C. V.

Ann Arbor June 1800

My dear Husband,

I have waited for several days, anxiously expecting a letter from you, but thus far the silence is unbroken. Unless I hear something by this evening's mail I shall wonder that you have not even written to me. How beautiful & fragrant your gray haired wife will be it so. The young physician you appointed to watch over me, arrived in the city to-day and promised to be very attentive. He will take pretty momentous notice if you see fit. Remember I will be ever with you. What will he write me until then, dear, and then hurry to the city to get on his work, etc. etc. I have seen the notice of his death's presence, that father

saw the dispatch and was
much alarmed, and Cliff
who had been serving him
all along to do something
of the kind telegraphed
great distress to know if the
report was true.
He called on the three mile
his letters in different papers
concerning his death. He had
sent them to the different
offices. He had had the plea-
sure of reading several
very complimentary notices
of himself.
Mr. Stevens called the other day
and gave me his bill. The
balance on one him with
interest if he halved the interest
amount of 765. I told him
I would attend to it as soon
as I could, he was very clever about
it, and seemed inclined to be
patient. He is just starting on
a centurion tour through

the west. I enclose a letter which
you will see I have read, you
will forgive me. I thought it
might bring word of some other
thing for you. You will see by
that there is no dependence to
be placed in anything to find
the way to do it to go and see
for yourself. I don't get discouraged
anything is better than being
doing nothing. I expect
to see this place again to come
back soon, and maybe
with the best.
What a long time from home
too short carriage. I am not
sure but I shall want to buy
one. - Wife soon came fully of
her plan and a prospect.
The children are all well, and
well but, to dear father -
I have had grand times now
sleeping with me, but the
my father much -
I hope we shall hear something