

Horatio P. Van Cleve and family papers.

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Version 3
August 20, 2018



Miss Charlotte M. Van Cleve

Ann Arbor

Mich


AUDITOR GENERAL'S
OFFICE.
Lansing
MICH.

Lansing Nov 8th 1855. Thursday.

My dear wife

Your letter from Cin.ti written last Thursday was not mailed till Monday, the 5th & consequently did not reach me till today. When it did come it relieved me from much anxiety; for the last I had heard from you was from Chicago, and you then expected to be home on Thursday last, in which case I expected to hear from you on Saturday. But mail after mail arrived and no news from my wife. Yesterday I was almost in despair, and was thinking seriously of starting for home if I sh.d not hear from you today, to see if any sad accident had happened. Yesterday with me was a day of trouble, I believe I had a regular fit of the blues. I will give you a list of my troubles.

1st On Monday night we had a hard rain, impeding my work, & on Tuesday night another rain. Of these I do not complain. Our Heavenly Father orders the changes of seasons & sends his rains at such times as seem good in his sight.

2nd I noticed in the papers, that a corps of engineers were engaged on the Detroit & Toledo road. As I had tried for a long time to get on that work, I felt, somewhat disappointed. I trust it is all for the best.

3rd In the afternoon I had another slight attack of fever, preceded by a chill & shake. Am thankful it was not worse.

4th To crown all, The mail which arrives during the night was delayed by the bad roads till noon & when it did come, it brought no letter. I had felt much anxiety on account of you & of the children from whom I had not heard

a word since you left home. I must blame your mail carrier for keeping your letter two or three days in his pocket before he dropped it in the office. I am glad to learn from you that the children were doing well when last heard from. It is comforting to hear from them, even if the news has to go by the way of Cin^ti.

Well, I believe the blue page of my letter is finished. To day, I feel well in mind & body. I do not feel like having any fever this afternoon, & if I do I trust it will be light. My work is progressing although we are working under some disadvantage on account of the wet state of the ground. — If I can not get a good situation on the Det. & Tol. Road, I trust employment may be found elsewhere. — & lastly, I have heard good news from you & my mind is at ease. I trust that now you are at home, & hope you found all well. — I wrote a letter to you, to meet you on your return, at Cincinnati. You said nothing about it. Did you receive it? — Mrs Platts child died on Tuesday. It was sick some days & appeared to suffer much. I attended its funeral yesterday morning.

I hope to be home the last of next week; am working hard for it. Keep up good courage, & help keep up mine. I sh^d send Sophie $20. on Anna's a/c to morrow, but know not how to do it, I wish to have a little to use when I return home. I see Mr Chase every day. He is well, and expects to return to Ann Arbor soon, & settle down as a farmer.

Good bye take good care of yourself & the children. I hope to see you soon. Write as soon as you receive this. This is a beautiful day & I sh^d love to enjoy it with you.

Your own loving husband A P Van Cleve.

Give much love to my darling children. Father loves them dearly & hopes to see them soon.

[found with letter of Nov. 8, 1855]

[July 29, 1855?]


THREE
CENTS

Monroe Oct 20th 1[illegible]

My darling Lizzie

Now do you get along? do you miss sister Nannie any? You have not written to me once since I came here, but I suppose you are very busy (now that mother is not at home) helping dear Hannah "keep house" You must be very good and kind to Hannah, darling for I know she is very kind to you and takes good care of you

Kiss dear Seymour Mortie & Jimmy for me. Remember me to Bridget. Be good child and may for sister Nannie every night be kind and good to every one. How glad you will be when mother gets home. Dont you? Your dear sister Jennie Lizzie Lawson

are you going to school now
You must study very hard
and perhaps when you are
a year or two older father
will send you here to school
it is very delightful here,
I know you would like it.
I wish you could be here
with me now it would
be so pleasant but never
mind dearie it is better
as it is now. I am going
to ride on horseback this
afternoon so I cannot write
more just now. Write to me
darling tell mary Danforth
to write to me I will try
to write to her soon.
God bless you darling

[Oct. 21, 1855?]

[Oct. 9, 1855?]

The Stove of which I spoke to you is called the Ajax. No 9 is quite a large size, has a large oven. The price here is $25.00. & they are brought in wagons from Detroit See if Risdon has any & let me know how you like them

[Oct. 15, 1855]



MICH.

Mrs Charlotte D. Van Cleve

Ann Arbor

Michigan

[Oct. 15?, 1855]

Lansing Oct 15th 1855,

My dear wife

I sh^d have answered [illegible] yesterday, but I let the time pass by as I was hanging on my work. The mail closes in the evening you know, I as the time had passed, I went with Mr Platt to call on Mrs Danforth. I c^d not write when I came back for one of my eyes has been some what weak for a few days, not from looking at my widow.

I have just written a letter to Sophie, which I enclose to you to send to her. You must not let her feel worried on our account. All the difference it makes with me, is that I must anticipate a little the time I had calculated

to send her money to pay for her board & tuition. I am really sorry for the dear girl. She has had a great deal of trouble & sorrow. I trust all will [illegible] well.

Mrs Danforth is very well asked if I had heard from home & if Mr Danforth had returned. Let me know when you write next & also how all are at Mr Danforths.

My health has been very good since I returned. I feel very lonely without my darling [illegible] Tell Sammy papa come soon. [illegible] boy how much I want want to see him & all my dear children. I hope Vizzie is not much sick. You must take good care of her.

I think Mr Risdon asks too much for his stove. The stove I spoke of in my last letter is similar to the [illegible]. Same plan differing only on style figuring &c.

No 8 a size abundantly large for [illegible] family costs $24 with all the fur[illegible] [illegible] for that [illegible] & the price is the same in Detroit. Wait till I come back & we will then see about it. We may be able to sell ours, furniture & all.

Good bye. Give much love to the children.

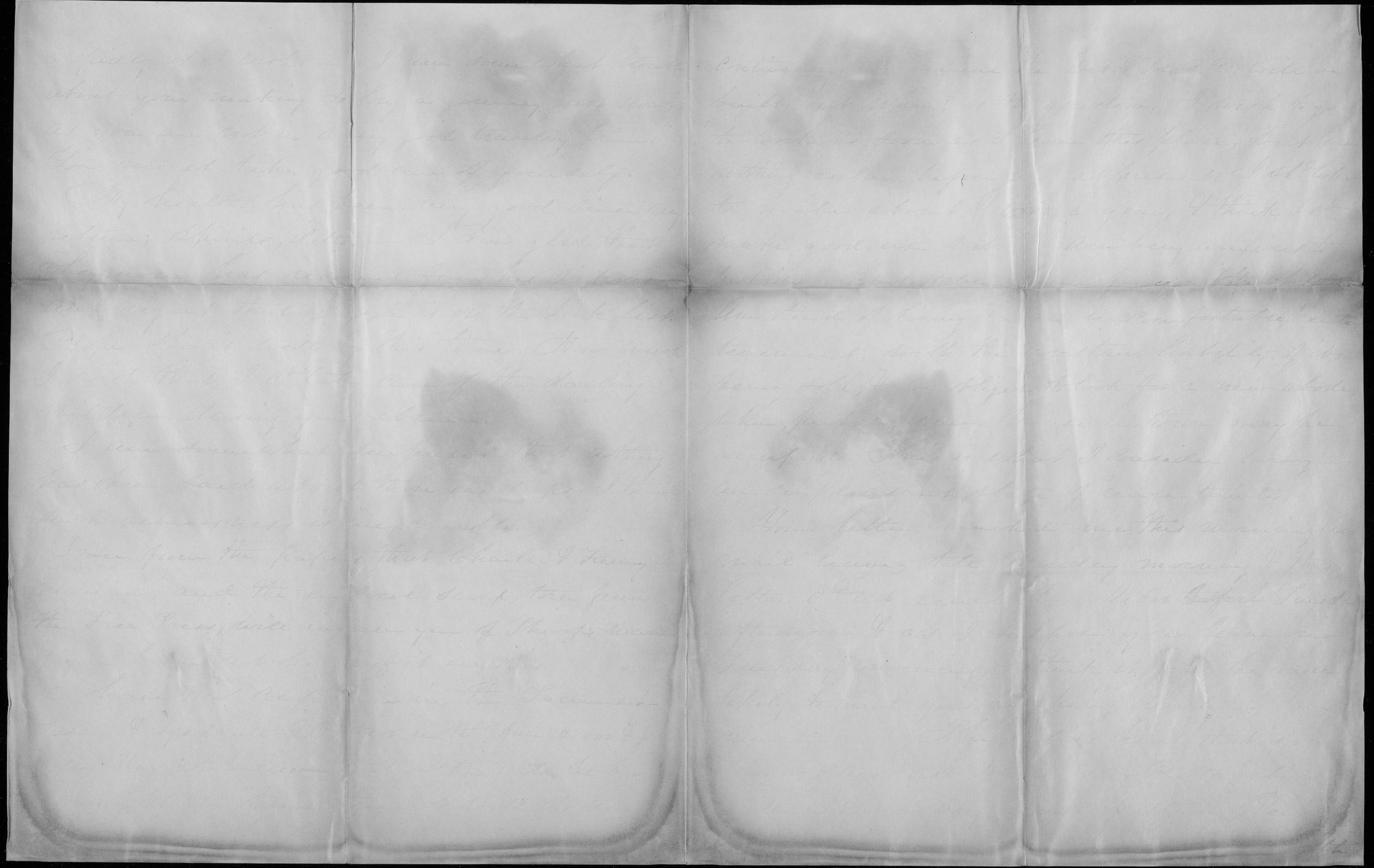
Your own dear husband
A. P. Van Cleve

[Oct. 13?, 1855]

THREE CENTS

MICH

[Oct. 13?, 1855]



Detroit, the market wd be [illegible] You are not slow of speech, like your worser half, & I think you can succeed in effecting a sale. The [illegible] is cheap at $10. p acre, but I wd be willing under existing circumstances, to take less. — Our friends here are all very kind & very lovely. — I spent Saturday evening at Mr Smiths across the Street, and met there Mrs [illegible] Woodbridge's relatives. Became acquainted with Dr Blainey &c. Was much gratified with my visit. — Took dinner on Saturday with John Kinzie & family. Had a pleasant chat about old times. They inquired very particularly about you & our family.

There are many fine private residences in & about Chicago, and all maintain that it is healthy. That is the way of the world. The citizens of Lansing say it is healthy there. My experience says the contrary.

Give much love to my dear children. You may expect me to be a better correspondent hereafter. Your loving (shall I say worthless?) husband. H. P. Van Cleve.

I have been making inquiries this morning for a place to board & told Cousin John, & asked him to assist me. He said he wd do so, but that I shd stay here till I began to make some thing. He is very kind. He thinks I can get board, $3. per week. Your Cousins seem loving

Chicago Dec 3rd 1855.

My precious wife

I recd a sweet letter from you on Saturday, that comforted me much, saving & excepting what you said about our disorderly household, & your signing yourself, my worthless wife. Do not do so any my darling one. I am glad to learn that Seymour is better & that the children are well & happy.

I have been in good health & spirits during my sojourn here. There is a wide opening here for business & large families, for in looking over the town, I see that it covers much ground & that there is still much beyond its present limits. I do not know whether they have yet determined to cover all that is left. — The streets are full of people & vehicles of all sorts, kinds & descriptions; all hurrying forward, as if perfectly conscious of the shortness & uncertainty of time. The whole population wear cheerful & smiling

faces, a fair index of prosperity.

I am more surprised at the enormous business which is done here, than at the size of the town. I was prepared for the latter, in some measure, but the former far surpasses all my calculations.

I have made up my mind to go to work & see what I can do, but do not think that I can expect & sure this winter than barely to sustain myself. I intend to commence with my profession, but if I shd ever meet with a fair opening in any other line of business, I will not let it slip. If I had a capital of 3, 4, or 5000, to commence with, I think there are many good opportunities & investing in business that wd be very profitable. There is no use however of ifs: I have not that amount, and must work accordingly; must work with my hands & head, if there is any thing in the latter.

I could purchase a house & lot of five acres within four miles of the city, at a station on the Rail Road & adjoining the land that Cousin John is about to buy out in Ills. John says the house is new & about the size of his dwelling. The payments are 1000 down, the balance in 1, 2, & 3 years. He is agent for the sale & will throw off his commission amounting to 150, leaving the first payment 850. There is no doubt but that the property will rise rapidly in value & can be sold at an advance in case of necessity. But where are the 850. So I dare not think about it. It wd be pleasant to make some such purchase & to bring my dear wife & children here immediately. I am weary of living as I have lived for some years past. If I had the 850, I wd need 650 more to furnish the house & to lay in provisions to move my family here. — You are a pretty good manager & financier, I wish you do sell Rogers mortgage & the Huron farm. Then where a good opportunity offers we need not let it slip. — You may let it be known that the land in Huron would make one the best stock farms in the country; that a farmer cd go on it & the first year cut enough hay to winter a large number of cattle. & as it is near

gratification, was seeing Mrs Wadsworth instructing a class of poor children. Last evening John & his wife spent an hour studying the lesson for next Sabbath. I enjoyed the hour thus spent very much, taking a part in the exercise. How much Christians lose by their negligence of the study of the Scriptures. They consider that a burden & a task, that sh^d be a pleasure & profit to them. All their efforts to do good are made a pleasure to them & not looked upon as a sacrifice of time & money. This is indeed a delightful Christian circle. Professed Christians cannot enjoy their religion, if they are not active in doing good. — Your cousins, all speak of you with much interest & wish to be remembered.

May God bless you & my darling children, Your own dear husband. H. P. Van Cleve.

~~AUDITOR GENERAL'S OFFICE.~~

Chicago ~~Lansing~~, Dec 3th 1855

My own precious wife

I rec^d a sweet letter from my darling yesterday. It found me in Statu quo. I have not yet gone to work. Fear that I will find difficulty in procuring instruments, with which, you know I am not provided. I did hope that I might procure them from some of the Rail Road companies, or of some of the Engineers residing here. Thus far I have been disappointed, but do not despair. — I was delighted to learn that the little ones are all doing well, & from the strain in which you write, I judge that you are in very good spirits. — I am glad that you had so gratifying a visit from Hons. I think a little prosperity w^d do him good. I w^d advise him

to sell his House in Ann Arbor, & seek a home in the west, at Janesville, or Madison; or Burlington, or Council Bluffs, & stir up his energy and make a name for himself. I wish too that John would look Westward. He will certainly sink in Upper Canada. — As yet I have done nothing, but I am determined to cut my way through. I feel much the want of a little capital. — I enclose $5. part of which will pay Anna's traveling expenses. This reduces my Capital Stock to $27. & as I intend to go to boarding in a few days, which will cost $3 or $4 per week, I will have to be very stingy until I begin to make something. My health is good; Spirits, ditto; for which I try to thank my Heavenly Father.

I was glad to learn that I kissed my precious Lizzie in the night of my departure. The thought that I had not made me sad & uneasy. I thank her for her sweet letter & intend to answer it soon.

You wish me to write particularly about our Cousins. I have visited them all, have been received very cordially & am delighted with them. — Mr Richardson left last Friday for Philadelphia. I have heard him but once that was on Thanksgiving day. He was not well & did not make much of an effort. I think I shall like him much. — I attended the Sabbath School, in which the Congregation is known to be much interested, & was much pleased. One of the teachers being absent I was pressed into the service. After the School was dismissed, I went with Cousin John to a School down on the Sands where the poor children Overcoats are gathered in, I was much gratified. What added to the

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Miss Charlotte D. Van Cleve

Ann Arbor

Michigan

Chicago. Sabbath Afternoon, Dec 9th 1855.

My own darling wife.

I recd yesterday your encouraging letter, attached to the end of two. I say encouraging, for all your letters encourage & cheer me on in my endeavors to establish myself here. Since I last wrote Mr Gough has been lecturing here on temperance, & while hearing him I had but one regret, & that was that you were not with me to enjoy the rich treat. He is one of nature's orators. The large hall in which he lectured was crowded on Friday & Saturday evening, notwithstanding the weather was unfavorable. Last night was stormy & the streets were muddy, & the hall was more crowded than on the evening previous. Every one was enchanted with him. I have never heard his equal. — Yesterday I took dinner & tea with Mr & Mrs Williams. I am delighted with the opportunity of becoming acquainted with them. Mrs W. is a charming woman, & I know you would fall in love with her husband. Much is said of your visit here with your mother. All your friends appear to have been highly gratified & think you are a delightful woman. Perhaps it may be safe after having made such an impression, not to give an opportunity. I have no such fears of you however. If I could once make such an impression as you have, I wd get on the first train & clear myself, never to return. — Much love is sent to you by all.

Mr Richardson has not yet returned; his pulpit was supplied to day by Mr Henry of the South Church. I regret to learn that Mr Stanley is not coming to Ann Arbor, & that your

Church is like to be destitute of a pastor for an indefinite period. I am at the same time happy to say that our Church has a pastor. — Mr Wells told me a few days since that there was a revival in Hamilton College when Mr Beattie is present pastor. I am glad to learn that his labors are blessed.

Dec 10th Our pleasant weather has bid us, adieu, & taken its departure. Cold winter has taken its place. Now we may look for slipping among the ice. We have but little to give, & however you could distribute the old clothing that is about the house it might be the means of warming some backs. — Another week has passed & I am still on my own, this new Monday Morning. I intend to make a desperate effort to do something this week. It has ever been difficult for me to find employment, The fault is in myself I am aware; I see it, I feel it, But with all my trials, & privations, & tossing me in the sea, it is next to impossible to cast off what I had rather call sensitiveness & modesty, but what in reality I fear is pride. Pray for me my dear wife, pray for me. Oh how I try to pray that God may lead me in the path of duty & bless me in my endeavors to earn an honest livelihood for my precious family. I stand in need of your prayers & of the prayers of my dear Children. — I endeavor to cast my cares on my Heavenly Father & go out in the morning, hoping to be able to find some employment, but night comes & nothing has been accomplished. During the last two weeks (It will be two weeks on Wednesday morning since I arrived in Chicago It seems like as many months almost) I have formed some acquaintances. It is now time that I begin to turn this acquaintance to some account. I shall gladly take hold of any business that will pay my expenses for a time, and give me an opportunity to look around for some permanent employment. I have been thinking seriously of engaging in the coal & wood trade. It appears to me that it must be a profitable business, and it may be commenced with a small capital. Of course I could do nothing in it till the next season It would be necessary to commence operations in the Spring, & lay in a supply during the summer & fall for the winter. In the mean time, I should need additional employment to sustain us. May God guide & direct me in the path of duty & make my way plain; & may bless my endeavors. Again I say, my precious darling wife, Pray for me. Do not think from the strain in which I have been writing, that I am discouraged & low spirited. I am not. I feel that I must succeed. I will if I am in the path of duty. If I am not in the path of duty, God will frustrate my plans & point out some other. I endeavor to look to him for guidance & for a blessing & to trust all to him. — I must now go out & see what a morning may bring forth. This afternoon I may add a few more lines. — Anna will soon be with you, but as dear Siggie said in her sweet letter, Where will our dear boy Malcolm be? May God take care of the darling boy, & restore him to us in safety.

Afternoon. Have been out. Saw Mr Kingie, who promised to try to get employment for me in the office of the Commissioners on Sewerage. He thought it probable that it would fall,

but that there would be no harm in trying. If I do not succeed there, I must try elsewhere. I believe your motto is, Never give up. — I am daily expecting a telegraphic despatch from you to the following effect: Wanted at home. Or, Come home. It will be understood. — I want to see you all very much, but do not as yet confess to homesickness. I cannot but feel disappointed at times when night comes, & I leave the unsatisfying assurance that I have accomplished nothing.

Give much love & many kisses to my dear children. Your own dear husband

H. P. VanCleve

P. S. I am going out again this afternoon to clean what I can.

Took dinner yesterday with Mrs Wadsworth & family

the former. I noticed many seats vacant at the Church. Few I trust, were absent from their seats at their tables. There is no doubt but that all were right on the goose & turkey question, and that they attended to the services of the table with earnestness & with out hypocrisy. — I presume you spent the day pleasantly at John's. I perhaps heard again a lamentation over the expenses of the trip.

After I got on the Cars on Tuesday night, I felt uncertain whether I had kissed my precious Siggie good bye, I was quite distressed about it. If I did not you must kiss her a great many times for me, and tell her that Father loves her dearly. I suppose Sammy missed me in the morning. Kiss all the Children for me. I hope Benjamin is getting over his Cough. You must watch him very closely, & that Sammy is well of his cold. I hope to write more definitely respecting my plans in a day or two. — Good night, my precious wife, May God bless & keep you. Your own dear husband H. P. Van Cleve.

Chicago Nov 29th 1865.

My own dear wife.

I arrived at this Garden City yesterday morning; took Breakfast at the Tremont House; after breakfast found John Woodbridge from whom I rec'd every kind attention. He immediately made me at home at his house. Took me out in his buggy to see the City; in the afternoon introduced me as an Engineer to several gentlemen. We found, to his regret that the work he had expected to get for me had been conditionally promised to the gentleman who had surveyed it some time before I was expected; But John had some other work that he can control himself, & that I can have. We feel quite sanguine that I can find enough to do. To day I took dinner with your Cousins at Mr Wadsworth's. Have spent the day very pleasantly. I intended to have called on J Kingsbury & family this evening but John has gone out & no one can direct me to his house.

My health is very good, but my mouth although somewhat better, than when I left home still troubles me. — I saw J. Kinzie yesterday at the Court house, & as he came towards me to speak to me, recognized him instantly. Met Doctor Andrews also in the street & had no difficulty in recognizing him.

I am much pleased with the appearance of Chicago. It is quite a place & covers quite a slice of Creation, for a small city, twenty years old. It is growing rapidly & a man with some little Capital might yet make something here, by investing in real estate. — Saw Bob Wilson presiding in the Recorder's Court. From what I can learn, he is no more respected here by respectable people than he was at Ann Arbor.

Last evening went with W & his wife, who is a very sweet woman, to prayer meeting. & this morning went to Church & heard a Thanksgiving sermon from Mr Richardson. Have seen all your Cousins here, who have inquired very particularly about you. Mr Wadsworth wished that you cd have taken dinner with us to day & thought you wd have added much to the life of the party. I too, wish that you cd have been with us. I miss you much my darling wife, & every day feel less able to endure this separation. I sincerely hope a better time is coming for us & that ere long my business may be such that I can attend to it and at the same time be with my family.

To-morrow I hope to learn something more definite respecting business. John is very anxious to find employment for me that will enable me to settle here with my family. He takes much much interest in us & I shall never forget his kindness. — I find you did not exaggerate the sweetness of John's children; both are lovely. Of the Cousins, Louisa looks most like Mindwell; she resembles her very much.

To day has been sacredly devoted to Thanksgiving; attending Church in the morning & eating in the afternoon; the latter part of the duty being more piously, strictly & earnestly attended to than

some thing to eat not but what we have
plenty to eat and every thing very nice,
but I do get so hungry and I want some
thing to eat in my room but what a
little goose I am the girls say that the
second bell has rung so I must go to bed

Your own little Nannie

Monday Morning.

Darling mother, I went to church yesterday twice
we have had no regular minister before but one
came ~~yesterday~~ Saturday he preached two beautiful
sermons in the morning from the text
11th Psalm 140 verse "Thy word is very pure
therefore thy servant loveth it" and in the
afternoon from Isaiah 64th 6th "We all do
fade as a leaf" he is a very handsome man
his name is Strong I believe

There is the bell for study hour
so I must go. Kiss all for me
remember that I love my dear mort
best and you next

Your own little girl Nannie

Pray for me. God bless you all

Please do not get sick darling mother send for me if any of you are sick in the least. God bless you darling Pray for me. Nannie kiss all the dear ones for me.

Monroe Nov 3d 1855

My darling Mother

Oh! if I could but
lay my head on your shoulder, and have
a good cry, it would do me worlds of
good. I rec'd your dear letter yesterday
morning. I believe it is the first I have
had this week, I was so glad to get it, if
you could only come here I would be so happy.
Mr. Zeus spoke to Lutie Nellie and me
yesterday and told us that if we would come
into the back parlor to-day he would draw
a likeness of all of us for himself, he has
a great many likenesses of girls that have gone
away. Sophie was perfectly willing so we went
down this afternoon. he drew all of us
together first then each one separately. he
is going to paint them in water colors
but he will not show them to us yet as
he has not finished sketching them

Now Mother darling, you do not think there was any thing wrong in it, do you? I try to be very careful and not do any thing that is forward or any thing like that. I do not feel that I have done any thing wrong. No one has stood between me and my dear Mort, his dear face no one will ever come between me and it. you do not think there was any thing wrong in our having our likenesses drawn by him do you darling. I have not felt that I was doing wrong, but some of the other girls have been up stairs this afternoon talking about it but I know it is because they are jealous and I shall not act any differently for that would be owning that I thought it was not right. I shall be very careful and not say or do any thing that they can make any thing out of. Do not let any thing I have said trouble you Mother dear. I will have a good talk with dear father when he comes. oh! I wish I could see you for a little while I should love so to rest my head on your dear breast, for I am quite tired to night.

I have been unwell this week for the first time since I have been here. I told Sophie about two weeks ago that I ought to have been so before so she gave me some pills and soaked my feet so I am a great deal better, for before that I felt quite badly several times. My cold is a great deal better and altogether I am very well now. That makes me think I have never told you I believe that George Wells has been here with his wife they were here last week Tuesday. Mrs Wells is quite pretty. Mr Zeus has promised to give me a list of music that will be good for me to learn and I am going to send to dear Mort for the music don't you think I had better? Oh! if I could see Mort I would be so happy he would take me in his dear arms and I could go to sleep. What a good time I will have sitting in fathers' lap when he comes if he wont think I am to large, but I guess he wont. I wish Bridget would send me a cake or

Your idea of marking it on a newspaper & sending it would be capital — it certainly is very ingenious — but I believe any mark made upon a newspaper is against the law, & therefore it will hardly do —

However I think the only part of which you need a pattern is the round piece on which the ruffles are set, & I can easily enclose that with all necessary directions for the rest — The pattern enclosed, is of course only half of the piece — I think it allows for seams at the top where it is sewed into the belt, and at the bottom where the lower ruffle is sewed on, also at the end where a hem is turned down — Of course

a little scantier [illegible] but finger more than for the lower

[illegible] I believe I have explained everything — I want to tell you a great many things, but time & room have both been taken up by the spencer & I must wait until another time to speak of other things I am so glad you & your mother & brother are coming soon I wish all of you were coming more soon to [illegible] Yours truly. Julia

New Haven Aug 20th /56 —

My dear [illegible]

I was very much pleased to receive yesterday from Brooklyn a letter in a brown envelope, which I quickly recognised to be one of 'Mort's' — You know I have seen similar envelopes before — I assure you that the brown envelope with the tribune stamp upon it, was very welcome — perhaps I should hardly dare to say as welcome, as the same brown envelopes were to you when you were here, lest you should quarrel with me —

Mr. Twining has gone off on a surveying expedition.

You were a good letter girl to answer my letter right away, & you may tell Mr. Thomson that I will forgive you for not being good before, on condition that he will see that I am never so neglect again — But I hope your next letter will be to Emmie — Dear letter girl — the tears came into her eyes when she found there was no letter for her enclosed in yours to me — In vain did I explain to her that it was only necessary politeness, for you to write to the older sister first, whatever might have been your wishes —

She seems to be so afraid of my "taking you away from her" I think she took to heart the news which we broke to her on the evening you went away, it made you seem so much more like a young lady to her & she loves to have you a letter girl like her — I hope that all your next, will be to her so that she may be convinced that you like her just as well as you do me —

I shall be most happy to give you the pattern of my spencer & hope you will never feel at all backward to ask any favor of me, (as you call them, but which I do not consider any favor at all) — Just remember that I shall always be very happy to do anything for you which lies within my power —

Of it, it looks so badly

Now Concerning the pulices of ruffles— That Corded Cambric of which mine was made comes very wide— There are only two breadths in the lower flounce & in the upper there are two breadths wanting about 2½ finger's, which was cut off— If you make yours of cloth of the common width that is as wide as French Calico's always comes you will want two breadths exactly in the upper ruffle & then add, to 2 breadths a piece 2½ fingers long for the lower— ~~Half~~ A breadth of French Calico's width, would be just right for the lower ruffle of the sleeves— There is perhaps a finger & a half cut off of mine— Make the upper ruffle on the sleeves only it is not necessary to allow for so wide a hem as I have turned them— The top of the piece should be just the length of the belt, so that it will just fit into it— Of course you can easily shorten or lengthen it to fit your belt, but I rather think it will be about right— The upper ruffle on the flounced must be sloped a little & set in with the round piece— The lower ruffle is made fuller & turned on to the bottom of the piece— This way of putting on the ruffles saves the trouble of running in a cord— The body of the dress is pitted just like any other— plain on the shoulders behind, & a little full on the

shoulders in front — The sleeves are cut loose & gathered in a litter at the armhole — The lower ruffle is not corded but sewed right on — The upper ruffle on the sleeve is corded — The reason for not cording the lower one is that it is covered by the upper — Don't laugh at me for explaining everything just as if you were a baby — I want to be sure that you will have no trouble in making it — Now nothing remains to be explained excepting the depth of the ruffles — the fulness & how much they are to be lapped over one another —

The slip of paper enclosed is the depth of the lowest ruffle on the flounce allowing for the hem & seam — The mark at the top is only to shew that I have allowed for the seam — The line no. 2 on the slip of paper marks the depth of the upper ruffle on the flounce — also allowing for a seam — this upper ruffle must however slope toward the front There should be full an inch sloped off — Line no. 3 marks the depth of lower ruffle on sleeves — No. 4 of upper ruffle on sleeves — all allowing for seams — The upper ruffle of the flounce must lie full two inches over the lower — The upper ruffle on the sleeve must lie 1/2 or 3/4 of an inch over the lower — Be sure that the ruffles on the flounce lap sufficiently, or it will not look well —

Rec'd Aug. 21st 1856

Thursday

Spencer letter

Miss Anna H. Van Clare
Care Mortimer Thomson Esq
141 Schermerhorn St.
Brooklyn
L. I.

Wednesday Sept 16th In Camp at Richmond near the ferry. — I arrived here Monday evening; went to work yesterday morning, And although the day bid fair to be unfavorable, raining a little soon after we started out, — did a good days work. To day have done nothing out on account of the rain. Have occupied my time in copying my notes &c. & now sit down to say a few words to you. Last evening one of my men who had been to Sank Rapids on a spree, I suppose, returned unexpectedly, & told me he had seen Cliff there with horses for sale, that he intended selling off all the stock on account of the Indians. I am inclined to think he is needlessly alarmed about the Chippewas; — And as Malcolm Clark sets a high value upon his stock, I wd hesitate long before I wd sell, at any rate at a sacrifice. Let Malcolm run the risk. I know he would if he were here. There has been much said about Indian troubles in order to get the troops back to Fort Ripley & now that they have been ordered back rumors of Indian troubles will cease. There are doubtless some who wd urge Cliff to sell, & then have a little picking themselves from the horses & cattle. — If they were mine I wds not sell, from fear of the Indians.

After this rain, I think it will clear off cold & we will have fine weather with no mosquitos. I hope I may be able to accomplish something this month. If I do not I must give up & turn my attention to something else. Thus far I have worked hard and accomplished but little. I hope I may be able to give a better account of myself after I have completed this town than I did on the last. I hope to finish this in much less time. Soon the leaves will begin to fall and although the days will be short we can work more briskly.

I wish Cliff had had time to come up to see me I want much to hear how you are all prospering at

I have told you my trials, & it is now proper that I shd record my deliverances through the goodness of our Heavenly Father, who ever watches over us. When I first was here out of funds, I was to my surprise, unexpectedly relieved by a loan from Gardner. When I was a Long Prairie Mrs Thomson loaned me $11.00 without which I wd have been without provisions before completing my first town. & last, the Merchant at St Cloud, a perfect stran

home; how you are supplied with provisions &c. I think you had better hold on to your butter for winter use. You will not be able to make any when the winter sets in, as we have nothing but hay to feed the cows. — You must do as you think best about going East, I cannot advise you.

[ca. Sept. 20, 1857?]

The wind is veering towards the North west. It is getting Coolen. It is also so dark that I cannot see what I write so good night & may God bless you my darling.

Sabbath morning Sept 20th In Camp at Richmond. Have worked hard since Wednesday & accomplished but little. You have but little idea of the labor of cutting our way through brush, and over fallen timber. In three days we run but six miles. Sank river is high & we lose a great deal of time in crossing, although we have been highly favored by finding a boat when we had to cross several times yesterday & the day before. — Wading in water our boot tops is by no means pleasant; but we poor surveyors have no choice. We must take the country as we find it. Wet bushes, wet water, wet clothes, wet feet; weary, lame; sometimes in good spirits, sometimes disheartened. This is our lot. — Separated from my family, with the pleasant prospect before me of five or six months more of just such hardships & perhaps greater. — If this is to be the life of a Surveyor, I will soon be weary of it, and willingly resign it to younger hands. — This is the Sabbath, and with me, a sabbath in Camp cannot be spent very profitably. Perhaps it is spent as well as I sometimes spend it at home. In times of trial, I am drawn nearer to my Heavenly Father, than when all goes well with me. Is not this human nature. — I miss much the society of my family, and it is hard to think that although within 35 miles in a straight line or two days travel by the road, I have no prospect of being able to visit you till I close my labors for the winter. — You must not be discouraged by what I have written. As long as I have health & strength & reason, I trust I will be able to support my family, with God's blessing upon my labors; but it may not be by surveying Government lands in such a country as this.

offered, without solicitation on my part to let me have what provisions I needed, relieving me from much distress & loss. Thus the Lord has assisted me when in distress and from quarters in timely unexpected

I think of you sometimes, and trust that you are enjoying yourself much, with your sister Mary & family, & our own dear Nannie; but you are not so happy that you forget home. You think of us occasionally and will be glad to see us again. Perhaps you and Anna talk of father, brothers & sister sometimes, after you have retired to rest, unless you have taken enough punch to make you drowsy. — I would advise you to drink moderately; It is very insidious & is apt to make one forgetful. I hope Nannie is temperate in her habits.

Has Mr Mellen been able to get any coal down this season? How much has he ready to send down? And how have the mines prospered this year? Tell me all the news you can gather, that you think I may be interested in. Have you heard anything from Wayton? What do you calculate to do if the river continues closed by the ice? I want to know all about your calculations, movements &c.

I have not yet taken that piece to McCracken & in fact wd prefer that it shd go to some paper without any knowledge of the author. If I do not take it to him I will send it to you. — Good night May God bless & keep you. Love to Anna & all.

Your own loving husband [illegible]

Ann Arbor Friday eve.
Feb. 2d 1855.

My own dear wife

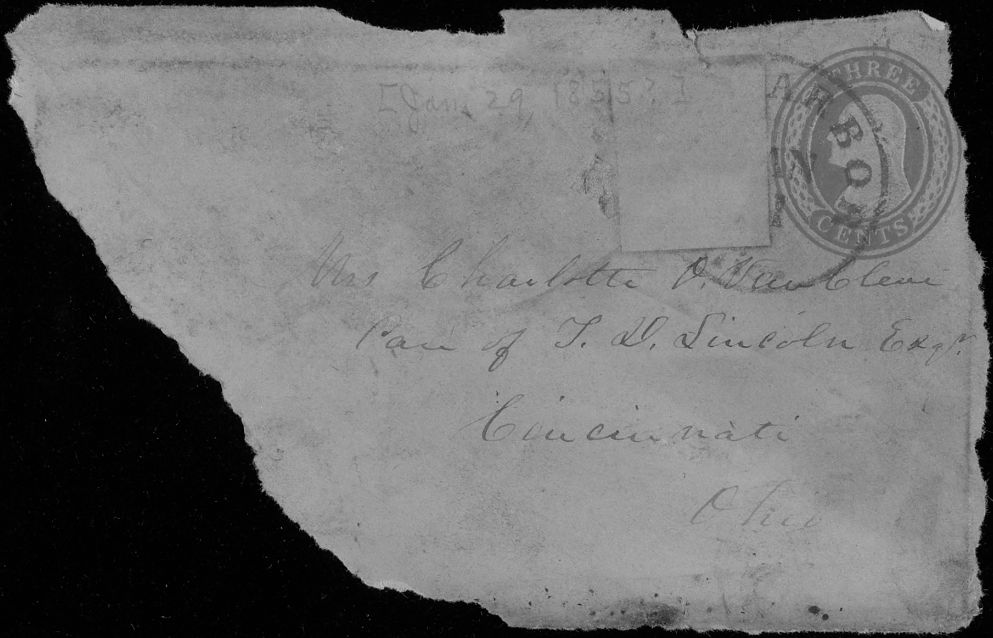
Festiferous Tedm, having taken a nap to day, is now wide awake, standing at my elbow, and giving it a jog occasionally, as you see from the first words I have written. We have heard to day of the death of the Rev Mr Taylor, former pastor of the Episcopal church of this place. We are every day warned to be ready. God grant that we may ever have our lamps trimmed & burning. — I commenced to day on the plans of the Un. Sch. House. I find it will be quite a serious undertaking. It will trouble me to finish it as soon as they wish, that is, in two weeks. There is a great deal to be done. I can tell in a day or two how long it will take to finish it. It may be necessary for me to go to Detroit to purchase suitable paper I could only find two sheets in the

Feb. 2. All will I see the catalogue & a paper. God bless you. I have [illegible] running candles. He succeeds to [illegible] [illegible]

Book stores here. I went up to the University this afternoon to borrow the box of instruments I had before. While there I saw Dr Andrews & he gave two Catalogues for 1855. I will send one to Mr Lincoln to morrow with this letter. You can see which will travel the faster. The Advertiser says Doc Sticks has fallen in love, & his letter speaking of the calamity, will be published to morrow. If published I will send it. — If the weather at Cincinnati is as cold as it is here, you will have a poor prospect for going up the Sandy. The snow has fallen about 20 inches deep on a level, and the weather is quite cold. I believe that antiquated gentleman, the oldest inhabitant, has never seen so much snow here. Teams cross the river on the ice at Detroit. The Rail Road Ferry Boat also manages to keep a passage clear & makes its trips regularly.

The children are getting well of their colds, but I think it prudent to keep them in the house. The boys go to school regularly. If you can find a strait jacket that you think wd fit Sam, send it by express, for he is a great torment. He is fond of showing what he can do with his finger nails. Poor Eddie's face is sadly marked. Lizzie also shows a severe scratch. I have been obliged to spat his hands several times to teach them better manners. Malcolm has been practicing considerably on his violin today. I believe he begins to think he may make something by playing at balls &c. He had a tooth filled yesterday and says the dentist told him there were others that needed attention. —

Mrs Maloney started for New Orleans two or three days since. — I have not yet had time to call on Mr Shaddock and will hardly be able to, before I finish my drawings, for the people at Niles are very anxious to get them as soon as possible, and I wish to keep close at work until I finish them.



[Jan. 29, 1857.]

THREE CENTS

Mrs Charlotte O. Van Cleve
Care of T. D. Lincoln Esqr.
Cincinnati
Ohio

went to bed I have not heard her cough at all. Malcolm, Seymour, Horace, Eddie & Sammie are all very well. The snow is so deep that we are obliged to carry Eddie to & from school, morning & afternoon. — I called at Mrs Blanforth's yesterday and apologized for your leaving so abrupt [illegible] Sec. W. told me to let her know, if any of the children should be taken sick that she might assist in taking care of them. If any sh^d need any extra care I will call upon her, so you need not feel any anxiety about them. — I do not hear of any more cases of the small pox.

Jan 31st Our dear little Eddie Mortie now commences his fifth year. Yesterday was his birth day and I am sorry to say I did not think of it. Dear boy, he is a darling, affectionate child. When I left him at his school room this morning, & had turned homeward, he came to the door & called me back, put his sweet arms about my neck & kissed me. — Sammie is as cross as a bear these days. He is very well, and does not like ~~the~~ confinement to the dining room. Ellen is quite well this morning, and Lizzie is a great deal better (not better than Ellen, but better) than she (Lizzie) has been for several days. Her cold & cough had continued so long, that I thought it prudent to call Dr Allen in to see her. She and Ellen are amusing themselves now with drawing.

Ann Arbor Jan. 29. 1855

My darling wife

I sent a letter for you to the P. Office this morning, to go by the Mouse mail, but Mr Bennet said it would get there just as soon by the Detroit route. I doubt it very much, but that is the way he sends them, so that is the way it must go. A letter came for you this morning from W. Bennet, California. I enclose it with this. Poor boy, he has had a hard time of it. I trust a brighter prospect is now before him. — I settled with J. Maynard to day, and found divers mistakes in his bill. A pitcher & pickle dish, marked returned in his first bill, was charged in this; and in adding up he made a mistake of $8. in one column in his favor, and in the next column a mistake of $1. in his favor. I mention this as a caution to you, to look over accounts

carefully before you settle them, and do not consider merchants, infallible in figures. — A better plan is to have no account with any merchant. If we cannot pay for an article go without. This credit business has always kept us over head & ears in debt, and has caused me much unhappiness. I did not intend to write in this blue ink when I commenced, but my pen was dipped in it accidentally. The children are in bed with the exception of Malcolm who has gone to another exhibition of some sort. He says he intends to practice tomorrow. — You may not be aware of it, but I have come to the conclusion that Ann Arbor is a very dull place when you are not here. I think Cincinnati must be very bright and pleasant just now. Anna agrees with me, does she not? — As soon as you come home I must go to Detroit, and see what can be done there. I would go now if I dared to leave the children.

10 o'clock P.M. Malcolm has returned, and prepared some tea, which we drank, accompanied with a half loaf of bread, for your sake. Good night.

Jan 30th 9½ P.M. I read the story of Aladdin & his wonderful lamp, to Lizzie & Ellen to day; with constant interruptions from Sammie, calling for book book. He certainly has a great taste for the fine arts at all events a decided passion for pictures. And one picture book does not satisfy him more than twenty minutes. He wants something fresh. And when he has decided that he wants any thing, that want must be supplied. He is not to be put off. I keep the girls from school yet. Ellen may be well enough to go to morrow, but as the snow is very deep (it has been falling every day since you left) the paths not well broken, and the weather very cold, it will be prudent to keep her in the house. Lizzie has been taking medicine to day. She appears to be much better than she was last evening; coughs but very little. Since she

8. [Jan. 29, 1855]

If this cold weather continues & the ice stops the boats on the Ohio, I suppose we may expect to see you home in the course of two weeks, as you will not be able to visit Peach Orchard.

Last night was very cold and when I went to bed, I felt [illegible] sympathy with the poor bachelors. It is true I had a sweet little comforter at my back, but my feet were way down in the bed, all alone. How horrible it must be to have but one leg, thought I, for I am badly off with two, to comfort each other. This morning I awoke about 4 o'clock & Oh horrible! A bachelor would have pitied me. Sam, who was a comfort last night had turned traitor. Such a fix, as I was in! It had been bad enough on previous mornings; but this surpassed them all. I wished for Scotch Margaret; (do not be alarmed;) not to sleep with me to put Sam's fixings on at night. I was obliged to get up in the cold and change me shirt, but

that I considered a mere trifle. You may imagine the rest. — I am waiting patiently for your letter to morrow, that I may learn, how you prospered on your journey and perhaps something respecting your future movements. You ought to receive a letter from me to morrow morning. Nannie's letter did not come this morning. You must give her a great deal of love, and a great many kisses, for her father who wants to see her very much. The children all send love & kisses. Sammie came & said something to me which I translated into love & kisses for mother & nannie. Remember me very affectionately to all. — Mr Burnet just called in and inquired about you. Eddie waked up this morning, saying, I've got my boots on. Fearing that I had put him to bed in that condition I felt of his feet & found he had been dreaming. As his boots had been well greased I expected to find the bed clothes sadly soiled. — Good bye my darling wife & precious daughter. May God bless you and restore you both to me soon. Your own loving husband,

H. P. Van Cleve.

H. P. Vincent Esq

Dear Sir

In accordance with the promise made you before I left Ann Arbor I embrace the first leisure moment in giving you the little information I have been able to collect in regard to Rail Roading in this State. I was at Mt Vernon one day & made inquiries in regard to that Road. It is not or was not positively decided to resume the work. The President Gov Delano & the President of the Little Miami company had gone to Pittsburgh to meet the Presidents of the Ohio & Penn & the Penn. central companies & were expected to go from there East to attempt a negotiation for money. It was thought that the thing would be decided in four or six weeks. In the mean time they are getting the floating Claims against the com. for the purpose of making some arrangements with the claimants to keep them quiet till the Road is completed. Their floating debts amts to the snug sum of $800 000 quite an item. They have not organized their parties yet & will not till the work is ready & I should think there might be some prospect of a situation then. It might be well to write to Gov Lewis on the subject. This is rather an out of the way place & is very dull I should think but I have been so very busy since I have been here that I am not prepared to pass an opinion. There has been some awful engineering

displazed on this Road. When it was Located 30 ft Grades & 2° curves were established as the Maximum & as it is a Valley Road the result is that the Road as far as I am acquainted with it will cost from $40000 to $60000 per Mile. There is a Tunnel on this Div. of 650 ft in length. They had been running two lines around the Town to avoid this & in a Distance of 2.9 Miles save $93,000 Between what it will cost to finish the old Line & to build the new one. & there has been already expended on the old Line Enough to build the new one!! Some 3 miles from Town we have Run a new line diverging from the old one & croping it several times & in a Distance of 1.87 miles we save a Difference of $40000 Dol. in completing the old Line & in building the new one & there has Been $44000 Expended on the Old Line now. We have been very Busy for a week as we have run this new Line run the Levels over it & estimated it. we finished our Estimates a little after 12 o'clock last night. The Directors met to morrow to decide on the Lines. If I should hear of any changes I will let you know & I wish you would do the same by me as my wages would hardly bind me to this Road, but I have an Excellent opportunity for Earning. Mrs Bennett is at Napillon with her Sister. My health is excellent. The crops in this State look much better than they do in Ohio. You inquired of me as to the cost of Howes Truss & I thought it was $25 per Lineal ft. but their contract prices on this Road are for single Span $16 per Lineal ft & for 2 Spans $19. I can think of nothing else that would interest you & as I have several letters to write to day I will close this already Lengthy one. I shall be pleased to hear from you any time. Give My Best respects To Your Wife & family.

Yours Truly

H. P. Vanclave Esq

H. A. Bennett

Cincinnati Oct. 18th 1855

My dear Child,

I arrived here safely yesterday after a twenty three hour's trip from home — The journey is doing me good as usual — and I shall be as brisk as a bee when I get back. Grandma is as well as usual, we shall leave to morrow, or next day for Winnebago, Stop one day in Chicago, to visit our cousins who have sent us a pressing invitation to come, then go on to the Fort, transact our business, return here, and then I shall go home — probably I shall get there the latter part of next week or the first of the week after. Now my darling don't be distressed about me I am doing famously, just go on with your studies as usual and take no thought or care for me — I am so proud to think you are doing so well

and that you are going to play so
well. Most will be so proud and
happy that the world will hardly
hold him, when he hears your play-
ing complimented — I hope to get a
letter from you and from him to-
day — and shall write to him
to-day — I hope before many months
to see you both together again —
Mary Anne and Sally are well both
are day boarders now in the Convent —
I think Ellen will go up to Peach
Orchard with Grandma, who can
not return to Michigan with me —
and all things considered I think
it is just as well, her health is feeble
and she might not stand one of our
Winters very well — But I hope in time
to have her with me permanently, and
then we will enjoy ourselves very much —
Kiss Sophie for me — tell her to be a good
girl and keep up her spirits — Grandma
sends love — God bless you darling — Your own
dear mother C. O. Van Cleve

[Eco. Oct. 18, 1855]

