



Horatio P. Van Cleve and
family papers.

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Horatio P. Van Cleve
Lansing
Michigan

Amherst Aug 6th 1858

My dear Husband,

Your letter of 2^d inst. has just reached me, and I hasten to answer it. Why did you not go to the circus? You have arrived at your of discretion, and I should not have been afraid of its effect on your morals. You might do a great many worse things that I could name, but some people good church members go to Hippodromes and Circuses and other good church members spend their evenings flirting with their neighbors wives - way one to their taste. You may go and see the ladies, and I will go to the Hippodrome - I suppose from your many detentions that you will be kept away from us for some weeks longer - well if you can stand it and make it pay, work away I want to see you. I dare say more than you want to see me, but I am not going to whine, nor act up Mrs. Douglass, for

that would do no good, and might under existing circumstances ~~the harm~~ -

Can complain that I do not particularize the children, well now prepare for a recital. The president is well, growing finely, becoming rather more bulky than I like, but is pleasant as yet, and seems very amiable. Sammy is the pride of the house, and decidedly one of the boys - He is somewhat given to profanity, of which I am trying to break him, that is he will sometimes say "by gosh" which elegant expression he has caught from some unknown source - but take him all in all, he is a fine, moral, well-behaved youth. Mortie is as usual, smart and full of mischief, very bright, and peevish and quite a favorite. Seymour is the rogue, emphatically - he had the audacity to sing out to me the other day "Mother was you ever married?" To night he has got into an exhibition at the Congregational church, when I am going in a few minutes to bring him home.

He stood round the door, and the doorkeeper told him to go in - Horace is just as still and queer, as ever, but shy, very shy. Lizzie is the same sweet blue-eyed child you know and love so well. She has just given me her good night ship and it now really fragrant, it smells sweet. Ellen is and always has been a riddle to me, she is not straight forward child and I do not know at times what to make of her, but she makes no trouble and I cannot find fault with her. Anna is as tall as I am, and is just as much of a bundle as ever, very affectionate I can't turn off as much work as the Clarks, but does her work well - Of Malcolm, dear boy, you have the latest information in the letter I sent you, I pray daily that he may be kept from harm and sin - Seymour has just returned and says that he was standing by the door and Mr. ~~James~~ ^{Lee} took him in, after asking him his name.

I have not yet rec'd the funds from Cincinnati
but am expecting them certainly by to morrow
and will make them go just as far as I can
will pay some to Emily and Linda and
pay McIntyre and if any is left, will try to
do something for Benet and Thornton -
as fast as you send me money I will try
to pay up, but if I pay for every thing
as I go along, there will not be much to pay
for old debts! I am as economical as I can be but
am afraid you will think I might have done
better don't scold me you? promise me
you won't or I will run away before you
come back, and I would look very funny
running, I assure you, Mrs Hunter is still here
and near having a nice time, I had Mrs
Corcoran here to tea on Friday and she seemed
to enjoy her visit very much, she is a nice woman
and seems to be much attached to the children
as soon as Sam came into the room, he got up
both and went to her with it, and would not
be satisfied until she had read him his
letter. - Mark is engaged in the Tribune to write
the Potter reports, and funny ones he gets up
I assure you he sent us some papers to day -
so it seems the ladies you have been so attentive to
begin to long for some thing nice to eat eh! well
I have known other ladies to whom you have been at
times similarly affected - I have nothing to add
except of improvement of the subject - You may make
your own practical remarks at your leisure



Horatio Phillips Van Cleve
Living
Michigan

Your affectionate daughter
Anna Houston Van C.



Anna Lubor Aug 18/55

you very much.
all are well.

There is very much a trifling
(as usual)
Kamie

"If the man 'oysters' dies
By not when his father dies
This is proof that he would rather
have an oyster than his father."

dear "papa"
I am writing this
while I hold a biscuit

My dear de father

I am glad to
write to you. The weather
is not pleasant but the
woman says it is your own fault
as you bought it.

Lo! I am back. My father was
not long away and you will not
answer it until I write. I shall
revere you are growing. I shall
be afraid of you. But I guess you
will tell me much when you
come home. I find that I mean my
hair done up in a "bob" behind
me. I fancy I look quite
dignified. Should you not think so?
Then you know I am almost as
mother and me. My dress a little larger
than I have done before.
Mother says I have to begin to

make my dresses over for himself instead
of turning them her clothes over to me.

You must think I am growing
very sentimental and romantic if I tell
you what I am ~~in~~ with you?

Well I will be ~~in~~ any rate
ending "in" ~~in~~ and Aunt
Maggie's but ~~in~~ old William

that "Bible" ~~in~~ "Khoassan" was
I ~~in~~ to kill the old brother

Mrs. M. ~~in~~ Julie have
been here for a ~~in~~ and will perhaps
be ~~in~~ week or two longer.

suppose Mother has told you
that Aunt Mary has another girl
and that Mrs. Meeks has a young daughter
- they say it is getting quite fashionable
to have girls. Mrs. Liff's baby is a girl.
a year or two ago everyone had to have a
boy if they wanted to be in the fashion
but they have got so common now ~~that~~

Uncle Horston children are having
the measles. ~~in~~ had them and
now Maggie is ~~in~~

I am afraid it is going to rain again
today (for vanity) it rains nearly every
day. How ~~in~~ by different this ~~in~~
has been from last. I never ~~in~~ ~~in~~
your season. I expect ~~in~~

well I shall ~~in~~ up to the
South District ~~in~~ school I have ~~in~~
been to school ~~in~~ a week as last ~~in~~

Wednesday all the girls had to go
up stairs to ~~in~~ ~~in~~ ~~in~~

I wish I could ~~in~~ to ~~in~~
to the Leman ~~in~~ school.

Julie and I went ~~in~~
the union school this morning.
Before breakfast they have got a good
deal done to it that is it looks a
good deal more than when we used
to walk up there. I wonder when
it will be finished.

But I have another letter
to write so I must tell you
good bye. I want to see you ~~in~~
much ~~in~~ a good long
letter soon ~~in~~

I hope the result of it will not
be in any way connected
with my children — Poor Hank
ins is to have his finger broken
off to-day, he is getting more
all the time, and many think
he is done for — His spirits are
wretched — His whole system
is poisoned — and is it not
strange the man who bit
him has had a dreadful
sore mouth all this time!!
It seems as if Hankins struck
him he had an ulcerated
tooth and it may be that
some of that poisoned matter was
injected into the wound and so
had this dire effect —
Did you know we had a
town clock? It is quite a
comfort to us — It is getting
on towards meat time and
I must close — All send love
Good bye darling God bless
you — Your own loving wife
A. B. S.

Ann Arbor Aug 10th 1833

My dear Husband,

Your letter with the
\$15.00 arrived in due time, and
brought as usual good news of
you. I am glad you continue
so well. It would not do for us to
move to Lansing while it is so
sickly for children. Here, they
enjoy uninterrupted health, and
I feel every night that I cannot be
thankful enough for this great bless-
ing — I wrote you in my last so
particularly about the youngsters
that perhaps I need not go over
the whole list this time. They
are all well, and as happy as
larks, singing incessantly from
morning until night — Mrs
Hemster and Julie may remain
a week or two longer with me
While John is building it is not

so pleasant for the old lady to be
there. She will be right in the midst
of it all the time, and opposes
her walk, while she does no good.
She enjoys herself very much here
and is busy sewing for me
all the time. Last night we were
at Mrs. Kenton's, or rather yesterday
afternoon. Mrs. Page asked
her if she would not go to the
circus. She was very anxious
to go, and seemed as pleased
as a child at the idea, but I could
not prevail on her to go without
me. I offered to come home
and send Anna and Julia to
go with her, but no she wanted
me, and I had to go. I saw the
finest performance I ever saw, and
not a single word or vulgar word
or action. Mrs. Sam Jenett who
is so violently opposed to dancing
was there, and Mrs. Little the
pillar of the congregation at

church was there also. Tell you
of my sin that you may have
your soldiering all cut and dried
and I hope it will be entirely
dried up before you come home.
I can't do much yet towards pay-
ing Harty but shall hereafter
as far as possible pay for my must
as I buy it and so not increase
our bill. Say to Mrs. Butler it
would give me much pleasure
to have her visit me when
she comes to Ann Arbor, and
I would try and make it
as pleasant as possible for her.
I might find out from her
some of your clandestine
proceedings while away from
home. It is my opinion your
conduct needs investigating.
How is Mrs. Platt? her friend
say that she is in the "delight-
ful conditions" which all these
women ^{love} love their lords.



Horatio P. Van Cleave
Lansing
Michigan

Shake in my snow until
learn whether they stand
test - On Saturday I gave
the little boys a penny each
for filling up the morning
them to do just what they
ed with them. Horace put
in the box yesterday at Sabbath
School. Willie lost his but found
it today and Seymour secured
ed me to send his to father
which I shall do, by Mr. Chase
I am glad to see that
of charity are rational, and
he begins at home - for really
I think it is more important
now to get open a suit of both
them to get up missionary
for great low fellows like
King and such - It is late
I must hurry or the mail will
be off Ellen sends you this
love of summer - Miss Dix
to Philadelphia again this
Mrs. Smith returns they are
to have me come and see
my my former visit now broken

Ann Arbor Aug 12th 1855
Husband,
Your kind and
husbandly letter arrived on
Saturday night and comfort-
ed me much. It rejoices
me to learn that you still
continue well and happy
and that you are pleased with
the account I gave of the
children and generally
pleased with my man-
agement. However many
adversities I have made be-
lieve I have done my
best - I must present
my regards to your ladies
and thank them for
having made your exile
so pleasant, tell them if
they ever have the opportunity
to return the favor in kind

I will do so right heartily. They are almost inspired.
I heard a beautiful sermon and seem to think the
from Dr. Lappan yesterday, most acceptable way
on the goodness and love to reach the gospel of con-
science of God. Oh I do so desire that he is thrown around
to hear him preach. I wish it a mystery and perad-
we could have him always in to their own glorification.
I always love God better. I am sick of such stuff and
ter hearing one of his sermons. if we get such a man in
mons. I know he loves him from the pulpit. I must wait
and that he sees it. I am going to hear him. I wish
a kind father, who is at home and read
made us a beautiful sermon on the mount.
here, and loaded us with which is plain to be under-
blessings, and who has been, and about as good
tid up for us as far more than any thing they get up
home beyond this, if he commands. I saw Mr.
Lyon and saw him. I have yesterday. He said
I saw much of a bagpipe. He was going to send in
religion is made by the two peaks and would be
winning, caution, and before he went, I wish
meeting preachers, I wish some shift and etc.
have studied. I wish to see him and can only
Hebrew, and imagine that they will suit, but I shall



Horatio P. Van Cleve
Sensing
Mich

[illegible]

you have always been too modest and afraid
starved to death on your modesty. You
you demanded four rights, and of a family
out of this world as well as others. Your family
is large and rapidly increasing, and you
cannot afford to stand on ceremony, wait
your chance and jump in, wait to be asked
and speak to friends, tell them you must
have a chance, and don't let them as you
generally do, that you don't know much but
are willing to learn, just tell them you
know all about it, that you could teach them
that pretend to know all, more than they
ever dreamed of. I wish I could hear of
you up at the copper mines till you had
got a little rap into your composition. If you
you need to make a successful man, make
enable you to support a wife comfortably and
get faint-hearted and bashful. But go ahead.
If it would only look well for me to stop for
ward I'd go to some of the N. E. men and
make such a buzzing about their ears that
they would willingly grant me all I asked.
I intend if all is well to go down to Milford
on Saturday and take Hannah, if she
do me good to go, and Antoinette was here
yesterday and urged me to come, while there
I will make all sorts of inquiries about her
nep. and if I can hear of any one to whom

it would do to apply, I will go and see my-
self what can be done. Anna will remain
at home and will forward your letters
so you need not change the direction of your
letters, she can read them and re-mail them
to me. I understand to-night that Mr Page
is about buying this house, if so, we shall have
to move within a few weeks. The house Marsh occu-
pies will be vacated on the 1st of September
but that is not nearly so pleasant a house
as Thayer's. I wish we could secure that you
will let me know if you hear any thing fa-
vorable about it, if we never to give up all
thoughts of that we must be looking up some other
place pretty soon, houses seem in great demand
this fall. Charlie Chapman will occupy the house
Mrs and now has made up their minds to take the drudge
step of matrimony and being poor, wish to begin
life in an humble unostentatious way. Mark
has bought the cottage we occupied when we first
came to U. S. but it will not be habitable this
winter without repairs, so much for houses. Had
several ladies to tea last night Anne among the
number. Foss declined coming saying he must
go to the children who were crying for their
mother, Anne feeling that if he was at home
all would go on well, indulged in chatting with
Mrs Hunter and myself after the rest of the

Ladies had gone home just as we were really enjoy-
ing ourselves in a sociable talk enter the Basham with
three tails, standing at the door he thus addressed his
wife, "Well are you coming home? I think this is pretty
business leaving me with those children all this time."
Wife "Yes I am just going, Basham, well I think it
is time." Wife not getting up immediately, Basham
adds, "Well you don't seem to be moving." Wife
with a mortified air, gets up and goes for her
bonnet saying to me as she enters her bed room
"It is hard for me to get accustomed to being or-
dered home to tend children, as long for her
sake as you, and thought to myself, 'Well, if you
would not talk that way to me then'." While
on this subject I will just say a bit of gossip
which although very bad is too true. Jones on his
return home did not find everything just as
he wanted, his wife had entertained company
of which he did not approve and many of her
old acquaintances had dropped off. His mother
filled his ear with stories which were probably
far from true to the prejudice of his poor wife. His brother
Shap has been getting pious and has been sent
to beat his wife. This punishment he has
inflicted several times and has said he will by
forceful means be convinced to the sale of the house
which the owner has gone to. He says that if he does
consent he will kill her. That one life is of no value
to him and he would as soon be hung as not. He
is now lying down with typhus fever and was thought
on Sunday to be very dangerously sick. I think A. C. is
fast earning its title to the rank among cities. Tan-
kins is a little better. My regards to your ladies, all the
children send love to you. Ned Hunter adds a remembrance
and Julia ditto - Sam went to Houston yesterday, and
clung tight to his uncle, calling him "Papa" dear child
when he gets a little older he will not make that mistake.
Tom should hear him sometimes when he wakes at three
o'clock and hears my car, he starts and exclaims, "Mash-
cars papa come" I think his remembrance of you is really
remarkable and very touching - Yesterday he came up and



Horatio P. Van Cleve,
Lansing;
Michigan.

Philadelphia
~~Am. Over~~ Aug 20th 1853

My dear Husband,

Here I am your son, and I have a fair prospect of a very pleasant visit. I left Anna at home with the children and all were well. John is still building and things go on rather slowly but it will probably be very comfortable by cold weather. The folks here make me very welcome, and Sammy who is with me is a great favorite. He calls John "papa" and seems very fond of him. Mr Chase will go to Lansing next week I suppose and I will send by him some of the shirts. The money from Cincinnati arrived only on Saturday and I of course paid Mr Tutin also, ten dollars to Bennett, five dollars to a grocer, of whom I have also been obliged to buy bread as the new flour is unfit to use, \$4.75 for 100 lbs of good flour from Welch's mill, \$1.50 for a load of wood, besides some little notions necessary for the family such as shoes etc.

Now the Sept emb may calculate, and
will discover that there is not a great
surplus in store, but I can get along
very well for some time yet, all I really
want, is enough to pay for the making
of your shirts some time in the course of
a week or two. I suppose \$5.00 will an-
swer the purpose. Whether I am or not, I
have the name of being an excellent
manager, and hope you will agree with
the popular opinion. I shall pay off little
debts, as fast as possible. Rogers will be com-
ing down with his little wife soon I sup-
pose, and if you can only keep business
which must be done, we can soon stand
up straight. I heard an excellent sermon
from Mr Wilson yesterday and a most
interesting one from Mr Timmins a convert-
ed Jew. I did long for Tommy Wood to be
there to hear it. I got many new ideas and
felt thankful for the privilege of hearing him.
Regards to the ladies. John says I must watch
you pretty closely. Good bye God bless you
Your own dear husband



Horatio P. Van Cleave
Lansing
Michigan

Ann Arbor Aug 26th 1855

My dear Husband,
I am at home again and find it a very pleasant place with all its imperfections. Thanks to our kind Heavenly Father all are well, and every thing has gone on smoothly during my absence. I shall stay at home now for a year or so, for I find it is about time for me to burrow up for the winter. I left the Episcopate people all well, and my visit there was very pleasant. I rec'd while there a letter from you. Willie handed it to me while I was enjoying myself in the midst of a large party at Mrs. Clarkes. You were in low spirits when you wrote it and I was in low spirits when I read it. I married a good deal more of my household and loneliness, but John Laugel sat at me and told me the trouble was that Mrs. Platt was absent, and you were feeling badly about her. But your letter was written as if you thought I was going in debt at a great rate, and as if I did not care anything about your letters to answer the questions you asked me. Now as to going in debt I know it is done so since I had any money to use, but I am only a little at the bottom and

For fifty pounds of poor flour to sustain us I
couldn't use it at all. I shall try and
make him take it back. The last flour of
of Walden and a paid the cash for it.
I do try to manage the best I can. I bought
some things of Macquard on credit when
you first went away, and shall pay him
by little and little until that is settled.
I do not buy any thing now without pay-
ing for it, and shall not do so if I can
possibly avoid it. The sixteen dollars in
Mr. McIntyre's hands, I own the ten you just
sent, the other six I shall get to-morrow
and shall do the best I can with it and
give you an account of it. Whatever you may
think, it is the general opinion that I man-
age very well. In your last letter ^{read as my answer} you seem
to think better of me, and tell me you feel
satisfied that I will do the best I can with
the money you send. I am glad you feel
so now and hope you will not get a
notion into your head again that I am
plunging wildly into debt. The remark I made
about being a favorite with the tradesmen
in town etc. was merely to set your mind
at ease and make you feel that even if
I happen to be out of funds for a day or
two I can get the necessities for the family
and so prevent our actually suffering.

Now are you going to scold me again
about going into debt and keeping you
sway from your family and all that?
When I could walk to Lansing if my
shoes did not cost so much, just for the
privilege of laying my head in your bo-
som, and having a good talk and
say and all that. I am going to keep
that letter of yours carefully and read it to
you when you come back and say if you
don't feel a little ashamed of it. Now
for the unanswered questions. I believe Pratt's
book sells very well, though here it does not
go off very lively. You know this place is
famous for having one book serve for the
whole town, and my copy has been going two
rounds. In other places it is no doubt doing
better for upwards of 7000 copies were sold
on the first day it was issued. Pratt's profits
are already \$1000, and should there be
another edition of course he will realize
more. He seems well satisfied. Has procured
and moved into a pleasant house at
\$300 rent in Brooklyn, furnished it comfort-
ably, and got his mother to house-keeping.
He is doing well but is working too hard
and it will not do for him to go on in
this way. He will be none out by the time he
is ready to begin to live. The cow has a

calves a week old, she gives a large quantity of
milk and in accordance with the advice
of several of my friends, I am keeping these
until it is old enough to use. We have
also the milk to use that we have been in
the habit of having and more too. If
Ray Samuel did acknowledge the receipt
of the flute long ago, and I thought I had
informed you of it, that West Point is only a
mile from here as soon as I can say my name
on it - I enjoyed my visit with Mrs. P. very
much, I told her to tell you that she found
one the delightful woman you represented
and no doubt she will do so. She took quite
a fancy to Sammy and said that if she felt
quite well, she would take him to Lansing
with her - I long to have you see him, he
is the "cutest" child you ever saw. The children
are all well, they have been to Sabbath school
to say, we had no service, but the Episcopal-
ians met as usual in the court house and
I attended there, I was mortified that our
people copied so exactly the example of the
dog in the manger - Don't be worried about
the house, Mrs. Page has bought Howard's place
so I suppose she can continue her life in
place until do, I am indifferent, I only want
a place big enough to live in about Christmas
time - I am glad you feel encouraged about
rail road business, I guess will come up yet.



Horatio P. Van Cleave
Lansing
Michigan

purpose, and bear up under
it like Christians. There are far
more trials than that. We have
the best of Hephings health, and
a lovely family, and the love
and confidence of each other.
What do we want more? nothing
but more faith in God and
that we can have for the whole
year - Anna and I went to a
~~large~~ party at Mrs Marks last
night, and I had a long talk
with Mrs Lawrence she is a sen-
sible woman, and I remember
with her that I do not regret
that her heart is destitute of
love to Christ who was bestowed
on her so fine a mind. Sophie Pratt
is in town she is at Mrs Pillsbys and
but called to see me last night.
She will spend a good part of her
time with me for the next week.
She intends visiting to Amherst
she is engaged to teach for her mother
in the Monroe Seminary.

As ever - all well and love
from me - I will be
your most affectionate
friend
Ann Arbor Aug. 27th 1835

My dear Husband,
Your long and wel-
come letter of Sunday last was
rec'd on Tuesday and I do feel very
thankful that you are well, and
in tolerable spirits. When will you
not be done, you there or four
weeks you tell of make me think
of the end of the season which
always seem to keep just about
so far off or else it is like that
long lane that has no turning,
however so long as you have
employment we ought not
to complain yet we can
hope for the good time so long
coming, when we can be to-
gether like Christians, and yet not
be considered very unreasonable -
The public seem to be arousing
more to the importance of rail-

roads and I certainly begin to
see dimly through the mists
and vapors which have so
long hung between us and a
comfortable support. Take courage
trust in God, face difficulty
like a man, and determine
that by God's help you will
have a living out of this
world as well as those who
don't deserve it half as well as
you. (Dear Sir) I am interlarded
by Sammy, sent three shirts and
six collars by Mr Chase yesterday
morning, do they suit you? how
my heart will beat with suspense
till that answer arrives, and
perhaps with disappointment
long afterwards. Can speak in
your last of the house, perhaps
when you come home you
may induce Mr Gott or
sed quick to put some repairs
upon it so that we can live

in it this winter, it is a mere
shell but we have got the key
of it, and if we can't do decided-
ly better we might as well make
up our minds to bear it.
The mile be about it when that
three weeks terminates. I feel
very happy this morning, and
troubles look very light to me
the children are all so well
and bright, you are well and
my health is good, and there
are so many things to be thank-
ful for that I feel as if the trial
of life were very light and at
the worst will soon be over.
There is no use of going measur-
ing all our days, and beside
it is wicked to do so, you know
your debts will all be paid
in time, and if God sees fit
to put off that time longer
than is agreeable to us let
us feel that it is for some wise



Horatio P. Van Cleave
Lansing
Michigan

refusal will make me really unhappy, while
your consent will add greatly to my own
satisfaction. Besides, my dear friend, you
surely would not wish to act contrary to
the will of God, and I can plainly see
that all has been ordered aright to carry
out my favored plan. It will not be the
least inconvenience to me, in providing
for my real wants. If I deny myself a
few extra flounces and furbelows, I shall
not be any the less happy. Now my dear
Sir, I do most earnestly beg this as a
great favor. Nannie shall room with me
I will attend to her with all a sister's
care and affection, she will have excellent
advantages, and it will make me very
happy. I cannot say any more but to assure
you that I must not be denied. My dear
Mother contents if you do. Anna is willing
to go. I hope that you will not harden your heart
and refuse this, my last boon.

I wish that you could visit with us,
but fear that I must leave without
seeing you. Juliet has joined the

family at Oskaloosa, Iowa. Father has
had a call to settle there as their pastor.
My brother will soon go into business in
the same place, and we will be together in
our own home we hope. Thus far we have been
justified and blessed and look forward with
hope to the future. I will close with much
love to yourself from me and all, myself
included.

Affectionately,

Sophie Mills.

Friday morning 31st

My dear Husband,

I send Sophie's letter
to which I desire a speedy answer
and leave it entirely to you as
you make. The
advantages to Anna if we could
comply with Sophie's wish would
be manifold, and I know of no
place where I would prefer to send
her, as long as Sophie is there to
look after her. She needs schooling
just now, and the faculty



Horatio P. Van Allen
Saml
Rich

Ann Arbor Sept 4th 1855

My dear Husband,

Yours of 30th ult. came to hand yesterday. I am glad to learn that the shirt arrived safely, and can only hope it will fit. — My absence does not seem to have that effect on me, I have outgrown all my droopes, and am getting to be of the diminution of Father Cullen's perhaps after all we may retain the average weight in the family. — I am glad to hear by you some news with regard to a minister. I know nothing of the church movements, and am beginning to feel unable to go to church, though when you come back I shall venture out evening I think. — Before I forget it let me tell you that I did receive

long ago a letter from Mary Ann
acknowledging the receipt
of the flute. I thought I had for-
warded the letter long since he
did not speak of buying it, but
said it came in good order
and he speaks of trying it
to get business for you. He sent
you the letter some time but it
is not very important. I heard
from Mother yesterday, they are
well, and talk, Mother and Mary
of visiting me this month on
their way to or from Winter
hago. Mr. Mellen and Mother
had rec'd my letters about
Sam, and had told Ellen
of it. She is bearing it nobly
poor girl, but the disappoint-
ment is a dreadful blow to
her - God give her strength
to bear it, and make her
grateful that Sam's villainy
has been discovered before it

was too late - Mother writes
that she has many things to
talk to me of, and you may
imagine I have a few words to
say to her - I hope you will be
here when they come, I shall
write to Ellen to day and
try to comfort her -
There is no news to communi-
cate, and the mail will
close directly - All well
and send love. I shall
get a letter from you to-
night and will answer
soon - Good bye and
God bless you
Love over
wife

H. O. Van Clee



Horatio P. Van Cleave
Lansing
Michigan



Sept 6th 1855

Ann Labor ~~Aug 1st~~ 1855

My dear Husband,

I am expecting
to go to Saline this morning
with Mrs Marsh and shall
then see Sophie again who
is visiting there. I merely write
now to tell you that Anna
does not leave home for more
than two weeks, and that the
V. you sent came very op-
portunately to buy some cloth
for under clothes for her etc.
I shall need a little more for
her when she comes to leave,
and now tell me if I can
afford to go with her. I think
it would be quite an advantage
for me to do so I could tell
Mrs Boyd just what I
wanted and all that
and see per fairly settled

but if I cannot go I will
try and make a letter
do. About her music I
feel as if she ought to have
more instruction, for her
musical talent is so decided
she ought to be very thorough
and Sophie is very anxious
she should take lessons of
the musical professor there
who is rather extra as
a teacher — she can find
time too to attend to the
foundation branches and
in them want her to be
very thorough — I will write
more fully about this
next time and shall
in the meantime have talked
with Sophie about it —

Phil Back now married yester-
day to a Miss Royce —
All well and send love
in much haste your loving
wife C. C. van Clee



Horatio P. Van Dusen
Lansing
Mich.

Ann Arbor Sept 11th 1855

My dear Husband,

Your letter to day is
arrived safely last night and in-
formed us of your health and com-
fort, for which I trust I am grateful—
Since you wrote that letter you
must have rec'd several letters from
me, informing you of our movements
etc— By them you will learn
that Anna is to go to Monroe the
latter part of next week and that
the five dollars you sent was duly rec'd
and used to procure some articles
necessary for her comfort at school.
I shall probably hear from you
to night or to morrow and I will
then write again— Anna and I
went to Saline on Thursday and
were detained until Saturday
night. We had a very pleasant visit

I am extra busy now getting Anna ready
for her new school and for
the new mill and I am happy to hear
that you are well and happy.

The friends all seemed happy to see us.
I attended sewing society at Mrs. Kins-
don's and met many whom I had
not seen for a long time, became ac-
quainted with Mr. Root, and had a
long conversation with him. He is
very pleasant, and chatty. He preach-
ed for us on Sabbath and adminis-
tered the communion, I liked his
remarks much. He seems a very
practical man and his remarks
are made so as to benefit his hearers
not to glorify himself. I should like
him to visit us when you return.

I met Tommy Wood, and he in-
quired kindly after you. I may
go out there on Saturday, Mrs.
Root wants to go out for pears
and wants me to go with her.
You speak of its being sickly in New
Arbor. It must be in the rural
districts for I know of no sickness
in town. I am sorry it is so.

Whether in Lansing I would not
like to take our family there.
I had a long letter from Mr. Miller
yesterday. He was not surprised
by the news of Sam's villainy, and
says that on announcing it to Ellen
she bore it well, and seemed rather
relieved from a terrible suspense
that had been killing her for the last
six months. He does not blame
me as I feared he would, but
seems to bear it much better than
I feared he would. It seems Ellen
and mother had been quite angry
with him for his suspicious and
mother had in her indignation
written to Mr. T., the author of that
letter coming about the time that
him did, proved to them plainly
that Mr. M. was right and of course
it is all right now between them.
He is coming down with mother
to Cincinnati this week, and they

mother and Mary will probably
come here in the course of two
weeks or so, I hope they will annu-
tate the end of that long four weeks
that we read of. Mr Mellen makes
you and me the offer of the school
in Pease Orchard in compliance
with the wishes of Mother and Ellen
who thought we would like to accept
the offer. This was on the supposition
that you were out of business. Mr
Mellen says it would be a harder
life than we ever had before and
does not encourage us to accept
the offer. although he says he would
be delighted to have us there. I sub-
mit it to you, although I am very
sure you will not accept it for I
am much in hope that there is some-
thing for you to do that will pay better
than school-keeping. Of course if they were
my delicate situation they would not
expect ^{me to do} ~~any~~ thing of the kind. I want you
to write me about it so that I can answer it



Horatio P. Van Cleave
Lansing
Mich

Ann Arbor Sept 14th 1835

My dear Husband,

Yours of the first of the week came to hand on Wednesday night \$15.00 all safe. Let your mind abstract about Anna's music, she will not take before if you object and will only practice perhaps when she has been there a while we may feel wiser if so, we can make different arrangements - You speak about our little debts, I have paid First \$5.00 and we will take the calf in a few days which will be equal to \$3.00 I suppose that is all I have done for him, but have tried to pay for my meat a good deal as I went along and hope our bill has not been very much increased this summer. I have not paid Sinclair any thing, I could not, for I have tried to keep from getting things on credit, and it takes pretty much all I can get to keep us going - I do not think I have been extravagant but perhaps you will think so, I have got nothing for myself scarcely and only for the rest what seemed absolutely necessary - I shall pinch tighter than ever now and save in every possible way, I shall not think

of going to Monroe, but shall send Anna
by herself and write to Mrs Floyd. I owe
the girl something but shall pay them as
I can, shall have to use some of what you
sent me for that purpose. Mr Branch called
too for \$5.00 per tax, and I could not pay
him but told him I would write to you
about it. I hate to take any of what you
sent last, for I must come home for
Anna and I have had to get some
groceries etc. Now for all this, do get some
clothes, or save some to buy clothes with. I
do not think you will be out of business when
you have landings for you can certainly find
something to do on some of the roads and
you can't work "all in your bare". We will
pay as fast as we can, but you must have
clothes. I talked to Mr Ladd and Mr Tooker
about the Manchester road yesterday, they
seemed to think there will be a chance for
them, make a strike and take the first and
best situation on it. Winchell and some others
are engaged in looking at the route. Mr Van
would have given you that job if you had
been at home. Don't be discouraged. It
looks dark now but that is because it is
near daylight. We can live very econom-
ically this winter, and by degrees we shall
get out of difficulty. Is there any prospect

of your coming home? You have given up
saying any thing about it. Mr Ladd asked
me yesterday and I told him I concluded
you had given up coming home. He said
he thought the ladies of this place ought to
hold a meeting. Expressions of these feelings.
I told him I thought I should have a com-
munion meeting all to myself pretty soon.
He thought it was pretty hard too for the
husbands who had to be away, and I told
him you seemed to be resigned and
had found some very pleasant ladies who
had helped to relieve the tediousness of your
exile wonderfully. I told him I hoped I should
not be forced to leave you disappointed, but
thought you would need it before I would!!
I wish you had heard Mr Tooker and Mr
Ladd - laugh - I like to amuse the elders
it does them good - I had a letter from
Billy Bernier at San Francisco, just starting
for Valparaiso Chile. He had found out
I was to his entire satisfaction and says he,
I have had sold him very cheap. He prom-
ised to tell me all about it in his next
letter - I dread to tell you the sad news
we heard yesterday for I know it will
shock you as it was every one who has
heard it. John Becker was shot dead on
his way to St Pauls a few days since

The circumstances were most aggravating
He was on a boat and bled to death
for want of ~~medical~~ aid - His parents
were to have met him at Milman's
next week. It is too dreadful to think of
God comfort their poor sorrowing hearts.
No human comfort can await them.
The news came only last night, and I
do not yet know what will be done
most probably Mr Becker will go and
bring home the body of his poor boy -
I don't own little troubles and annoyances
look light compared with this?

The shot was of course accidental and
no harm learned none of the particulars.
His death will make a wide breach in
his family, and in the community.

These sudden afflictions should teach us
a lesson - I don't let the state of our
affairs trouble you - I know there are
better times in store for us - and I don't
want you to get discouraged -

All are well, and send love. The children
will receive you when you return
and I will be very glad to have you
here to play with Sam in the morning
so that I can get my nap -

In great haste and with much love
Yours aff. wife L. A. Van Allen



Horatio Phillips Van Cleve
Lansing
Michigan

My dear Husband
I have a shame-
ful letter can-
not write
All send love
And quite
before the time
soon
all winter
off
over-hill

Oct 853

They have heard them read several times and are very much delighted I think too it has stirred up their ambition about school. You had better direct one to Ellen and enclose one to Horace; their black eyes shone when I read the other children's letters aloud and they would go quite wild with delight to get one of their own. We are all very well hurrying to get Anna ready to start on Saturday. Betsey Emrich has been visiting me for a week or so and is very kindly helping me with my sewing. I am not in very good condition to sew and cannot

have got through without her —
I called to see poor Mrs Becker on
Friday night. She is dreadfully afflic-
ted, but bears her trial like a
Christian, and overcomes her own
grief to comfort her poor husband who
is completely crushed. He grew old
ten years, the day after he received
the intelligence. Mrs Becker gave
me the letter from George, to read.
It seems, that John was going from
Lake Superior across to St Paul, and
had got ~~on~~ to the St Peters river
the company were provided with
hunting implements and were in
a canoe, one of the rifles acciden-
tally discharging, wounded him
in the arm, and after some diffi-
culty they succeeded in stopping
the bleeding, for twenty four hours
when it broke out afresh, and in
half an hour he breathed his last
without a struggle or groan.

They did their best to get to
Kipley (which was the nearest
settlement) but in vain, and
there, far away from home and
friends, in the wilderness in a
small and cramped canoe
the son of much love and many
hopes, breathed out his precious
life — God's ways are indeed
inscrutable and in such a dis-
section dark and mysterious we
can but bow and say "God's
will be done" — Then I had
shown out to the sitting room.
The other evening when I had
often seen him in all the pride
and beauty of health and man-
liness, and, in the gloom, saw his
grief stricken mother bent with
no, I could not refrain from
mingling my tears with his, and
never can I forget her look.
It haunted me all that night.

and I have thought of her much
of the time since, I told her what
I felt from my heart, that none
but God could comfort her, and
that in such hours of agony
we felt how blessed it was to have
a God to go to. I told her that
God had blessed her in giving
her such a son and in sparing
him to her so many happy years
and she said Oh, yes his life was
one bright spot to us, he was a
precious son. You will feel for
them I know, and will pray for
them - They have no children at
home with them though they
had telegraphed for Mary and
Fred, and expected them to day
God protect and defend our poor
boy. I hope to hear from mother
to morrow and to know when to
expect her. When will you be through
with that four weeks. J. L. & M. Chase
will tell you that we are all in health

to Mrs. P. H. Chase
Valentine morning