

Horatio P. Van Cleve and family papers.

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Version 3
August 20, 2018

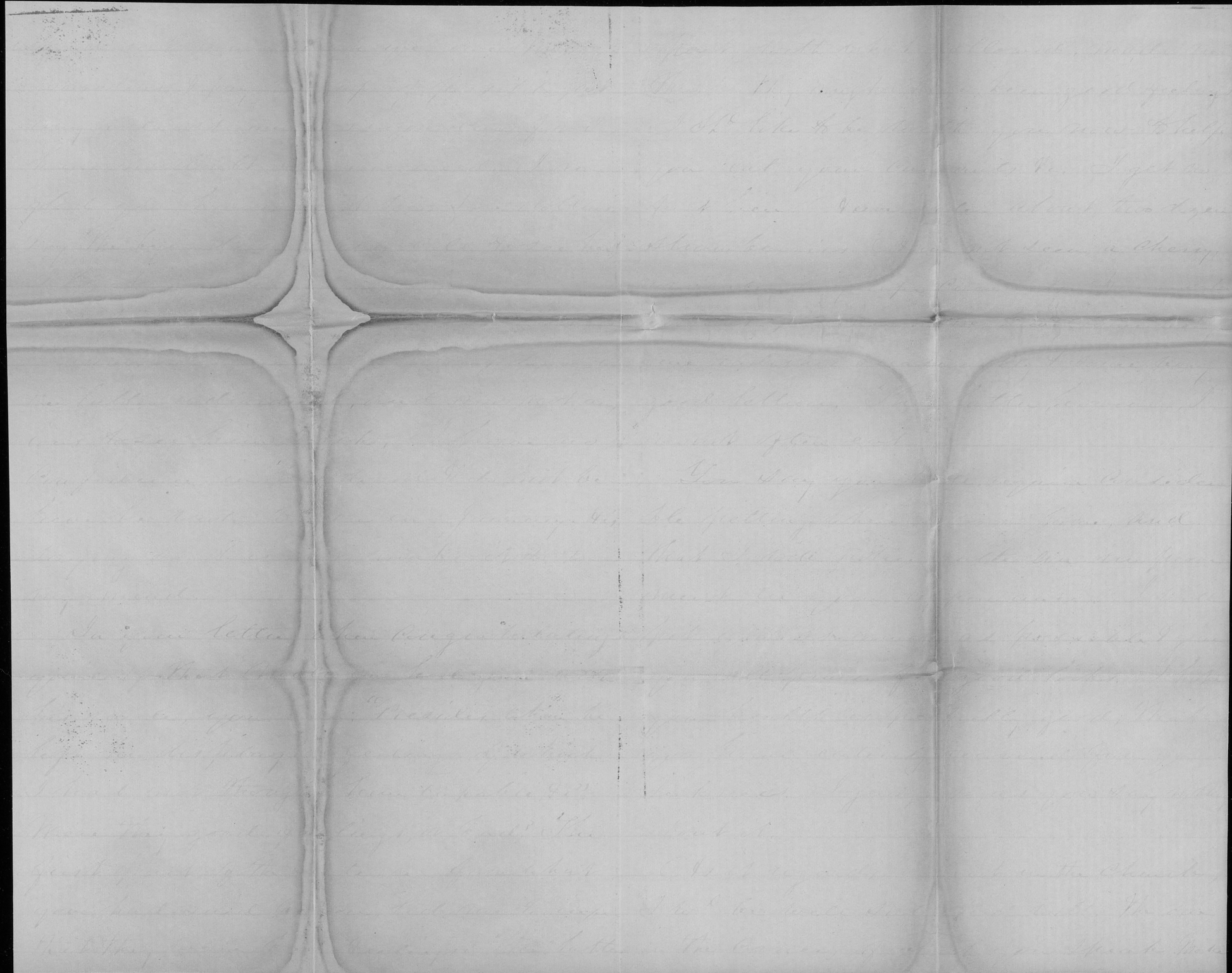

THREE
CENTS

I have now written you a good
long letter; when can I look for
an answer? I take it for granted
that you are a great rate good girl
that you help mother & [illegible]
as many of her cares as possible
[illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible] thousand things. As you are a
good seamstress you may make
some sheets for me, which you can
do with mother's assistance
[illegible] & I will pay you
[illegible] for such labor in cash
[illegible] good girl, kiss [illegible]
[illegible] & [illegible] many good
[illegible] darling.
[illegible]
[illegible]

[illegible] July 1st 1855
My dear daughter Annie [July 8, 1855]
Mother says you [illegible]
[illegible] you [illegible]
[illegible] good long epistle [illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible] as you know we [illegible]
[illegible] have been compelled to [illegible]
[illegible] Perhaps you w^d like to know
what for a working place Lansing
the Capital of Michigan is. It [illegible]
[illegible] you must imagine
yourself a clearing, a mile wide &
a mile & a half long, [illegible]
on all sides by heavy timber, so
that you [illegible] all over
this clearing the stumps are [illegible]
ing, and although the [illegible]
of the [illegible] have been [illegible]
there are many logs left on the [illegible]
[illegible] black from the effects
[illegible] the clearing [illegible]

[ca. July 8, 1855?]

[ca. July 8, 1855]



[June 18, 1855?]

Monday June 18th

I am very well today and very busy.

I sh^d like you to ask Mr McIntyre to give you or to send to me an exact description of his fence in front of his house.

The dimensions of the posts

" " " rails

The manner in which the rails are set into the posts, &c. &c. &c.

The cost of building the fence.

" " " painting.

If he can furnish all these items he will oblige me much.

You will find him at the Bank any time during the day.

Let me know as soon as you can.

Give much love to all my dear children. & may God bless & keep you all

Your husband H. P. Van Cleve



Mrs Charlotte D. Vandle

Ann Arbor

Michigan

me dearly, & that I want to be with
much, for I miss her society greatly.
Stern necessity is all that keeps me from
her side. May God bless, watch over
& protect her & all my dear children.
Tell Horace & Ellen that uncle loves them
& wants to see them.

My health is very good, & my work is get-
ting along as well as I cd expect during
harvest time. When I will get through
and return to my dear family is more
than I can tell just now.

It is possible that Mr & Mrs Cutler will
visit Ann Arbor sometime this summer.
Mr Cutler has business at Ann Arbor
& Salem &c. & Mrs C wishes to visit Mr
Finley's family & other friends. Mr F. I believe
is her uncle. I wish when you write
to me you wd invite them to visit you,
if you care, for I know you be pleased
with them & I think it probable she
wd like to spend a day & perhaps more
in the village. I think a great deal of
them both. — Good afternoon. Take
good care of yourself. Do not eat too
much pork. I have a fancy that it is not

Lansing, Sabbath afternoon
Aug 8th 1886

My own dear wife

Your letter of the 2nd and the
4th enclosing letters from the Malvern & a
note from Sing was very acceptable.
I [illegible] gratifying to hear
from our brother & son, to learn that
they have got so far on their journey, or
perhaps we might better say to the com-
mencement of their journey, without
harm. I pray that they may be pros-
pered & do well, hoping at the same
time that our boy will not [illegible]
[illegible] the Blackfeet, or bring back
any encumbrances.

I regret sincerely that there has been
any thing in Sam's conduct to change
our feelings towards him, & destroy our
confidence. But since it is so, I think
it best that Ellen shd know it, & am
glad that you have written to Mr Mel-
len, & that too while he was in Cincin-
nati. I have wished & hoped that Sam

[illegible] come back. I c^d not welcome him
[illegible] I have told you before, my confidence
[illegible] him is entirely lost, & gone. And so
[illegible] as a reformation is concerned, I [illegible]
believe it, as soon as he becomes a sin-
cere Christian. [illegible] Painful to think of
[illegible]
[illegible] than when there is no [illegible]
also painful to think of Mary's triumph.
[illegible] our little darling gets the measles [illegible]
[illegible] be very careful of him & not let him
take cold. Precious child, I am afraid
[illegible] him too much. Tell him pap[illegible]
[illegible] him and wants to see him very much.
[illegible] Hons sore trials
[illegible] that Mr Sumter cannot be
punctual [illegible] it not be
[illegible] the Bishop & have him
[illegible] the Rector. The Rector sh^d
[illegible] his conduct, or give up preaching
for this is one of the greatest sins he c^d [illegible]
[illegible] against our worthy brother. I have
no doubt he has more than once been [illegible]
[illegible] minutes for him. Enough

to make him "blame it" & "confound it".
I went to Church this morning in my
[illegible] coat & was compensated by hearing
a very good practical sermon (Mr [illegible]
preaches none other) from the text: Are the
Consolations of God small with thee? Is there
[illegible]
[illegible] my case, for the consolations of God
are small with me, & the secret thing with
me, is, that I do not love & honor [illegible]
[illegible] sh^d. — Tell my dear little Sizzie
that I was much gratified to hear from
her and thank her for her sweet little letter.
Tell my darling Nannie that I am waiting
patiently for her letter. Tell my precious
Seymour & Martie that Father loves them
dearly. Tell all my children that I wish
them to be good children, that I love them
dearly & want to see them very much.
When evening or the Sabbath comes, my
thoughts are always with my wife &
children, for I have no labors to engage
my attention, at those times. Tell my
own darling wife that I know she loves

[Aug. 5, 1855]

very wholesome food. How is the President getting along? You told me some time since, that he was becoming quite conspicuous & took up a great deal of room. I hope he is not troublesome.

Aug 6th Monday. I enclose $15. today, [illegible] I [illegible] you. It [illegible] gratifying to me if it had been 500 but as it is I am thankful. I hope it was [illegible] comfort & assistance to you. It will be necessary for me to retain some [illegible] purchase some clothing for myself of which I am very much in need. I regret that this is but it cannot be helped.

It still continues to be [illegible] sickly here every day [illegible] of the death of some child. This is a very fine day & the farmers are improving it by gathering in their wheat. I think it is not as much in [illegible] as was supposed.

Good bye; take good care of yourself

Your own loving Husband

H. P. Vanlaleve

What are the cows [illegible]? I hope [illegible]

[illegible] Chert as as Cherry Hill. Is the gentle

Chicago Lab. Afternoon Aug. 10th 1856

Our own precious wife,

I rec'd your Kindly ever letter yesterday, & it comforted me much. We sh'd be thankful that we have again heard good news from our dear boy. If I hear from Cliff that he is going, & when he will be here I will try to meet him at the cars with Malcolm's skates

I went to the South Pres. Ch. again this morning and heard an excellent sermon from Mr Henry the Pastor, from the words: "Behold what manner of love the Father hath bestowed on us, that we sh'd be called the sons of God". My darling wife if we can only have the assurance that we are the children of God; that we are indeed adopted into his family; that we are heirs to the inheritance of his kingdom; — all our present trials will be looked upon as blessings calculated to fit & prepare us for this inheritance; intended to wean us from this world and incline us to place our affections on our God, our Savior & Father.

I fear that I have been guilty of some grevious errors in my prayers to our Heavenly Father, respecting the Crook in our Lot; that I have been more anxious for its removal than for Grace to bear it; and that I have been setting my own time when it sh'd be removed, that is, soon.

Monday Aug. 11. In return for your chaos of letters I have written to you a very sombre one. You must excuse it & I will try to do better next time. It distresses me to think you are struggling along & with the care of the family & with out funds. I send you fifteen dollars a dollar in a bank et, but all that I can spare at present. I have no work at present & do not feel able to do any thing, if I had. The pain in my side continues & I am feeble. That is cannot be an much exertion. Love to my dear children. Your loving hurt and H. P. Van Cleve

If we are indeed his children, we must seek to attain a childlike submission to our Heavenly Father's will. If it is best for us that the Crook in our lot sh^d be removed, he will remove it; if not, he will give us Grace to bear it.

When I return from Church, and turn into the dark narrow passage that leads to my solitary room, gloomy thoughts will fill my mind; and when feeling weak & weary, I cast myself on my lounge & think of my dear home, my wife & children, I cannot help wishing that I were with you, & perhaps I may repine too much over our present separation. — I have been troubled considerably during the last three weeks, weeks with a pain in my right side. At first I thought it was a soreness in the muscles brought on by my work, for it appeared to extend over my stomach & chest, but during the past eight or ten days I have found that it was in my liver. I think it must have been considerably inflamed, for it has been very sore and is not yet entirely well, although I feel much better this after noon than I have at any time since I first felt it. I do not yet feel very strong, a little exertion wearies me. Since I have felt thus worthless & good for nothing, I have wished much that you were by my side to pet & comfort me. When I retire to rest, on what you are pleased to call my plank, it looks very narrow & cheerless, hard & uninviting, and I cannot boast of its being the most comfortable couch upon which I have ever slept, & I have no loved one resting her sweet head on my bosom, and I hear no loved one bid me good night. Yet I have much to be thankful for. I sleep tolerably well & am refreshed by my slumbers. — I generally take my testament, the Crook in the lot or some other book & your last letter with me to bed & read till I become sleepy. I seldom go to sleep before 11 o'clock, sometimes not till midnight. A few nights since I took Picciola to bed with me, & becoming much interested in it could not close the book till I had finished it, perhaps a little after midnight.

9 o'clock. Have remembered you my darling. Have endeavored to pray to our Heavenly Father, that we might be restored to each other, that the sad Crook in our lot might be evened if consistent with his holy will & that we might have grace given to us to submit to His holy will in all things without murmuring. Oh how much I think of my dear children. I cannot pray with them, but I have the blessed privilege of praying for them, & it is a great comfort to be allowed to commit them to the care of our Heavenly Father. If we can do this with faith, we could have the assurance that He w^d never leave nor forsake them. I sometimes fear that I have no faith but I w^d not be willing to exchange the small grain I sometimes hope I have, — for thousands of worlds. It is but a very

small spark, that I am struggling with the Grace of God to keep alive & striving to fan into a flame. But I can do nothing without his aid. Perhaps these winds of adversity are sent to blow it into a flame for me. —

I went over to the North Church this evening but all was dark there, no preaching. I returned to my room where all was dark & gloomy. How different wd have been my feelings if I cd have returned to my own sweet home, to my dear wife & children. — My debts still harass & distress me much. I know that I am severely blamed for not discharging them & that I bring reproach upon the Church & the cause of my Savior. But my dear wife I have struggled hard to be enabled to discharge them. When faint under the heat of the sun have persevered & toiled when every step gave me pain, and only desisted when I had no work to do. But as the result of my toil I do not appear to much if any nearer my object. & sometimes I feel well nigh discouraged. As long as I am assured that I am in the path of duty, & as long as the Lord gives me strength so long will I persevere in my labors, leaving the results with him. The husbandman may plow & sow, but God gives the increase. My dear wife how much I need your prayers for grace & strength & wisdom & faith. — As I was going into Church this morning they were singing and I heard this sentence As we need he gives us Grace, — or words to that effect. I listened attentively to learn more, but that was all I cd distinguish save now & then a word. It was enough however & this thirsty heart drank it in with tears of joy. Good night darling. May God bless you.



Mrs Charlotte D. Van Cleve

Ann Arbor

Michigan

office. Honest politicians!
Moses was one, & Joshua, &
perhaps David, I rather think
he was except in his treat-
ment of Mephibosheth & in the
affair with Bathsheba & some
others; but now-a-days we
do not look for them. In fact
we are becoming so corrupt
that an honest man will
not serve our purposes.
The children have "Peep of
Day" & Line upon Line", I intend
to get "Precept upon Precept" for
them & also some other Bible sto-
ries. — Mr Spring gave me
another copy of the "Crook in the
Lot" this morning, which I will
bring to Mrs Danforth when I
make you another visit.
I have not been able to find
the "Night of Weeping". I under-
stand that it is kept at but

Chicago Friday afternoon
Aug. 8th 1856

My darling wife
When you get a surfeit
of my letters, let me know, and I
will reduce your rations. Know-
ing that you have been on the
subject of letters, like the horse leech
daughters, crying continually, give
give, I have not been afraid of
any serious consequence; but
if I shd overload you, send me
word & I will be more careful in
future. Although I wrote yesterday
I do not wish to disappoint your
little mail carrier to morrow eve-
ning, so I send a Saturday Bul-
letin. — I recd a sweet letter from
you this morning, and am glad
to find you all well & prospering.

Your praises of the dear children always sound sweet to me. You need never fear of sending too much. Precious darlings, How much their father thinks of them & loves them.

You ask what advice I gave Willie Daviess. I told him I regretted that he had made up his mind to go to me, but was unwilling to advise him to his hurt. Hoped that he wd still make us a visit, I was afraid to hold out any uncertain inducements. I hoped your letter might influence him to turn his face towards Michigan.

I spoke to Dr Andrews about the lameness of Mrs Wilsons child. He says cold water had nothing to do with it, in his opinion, but it was owing to other causes.

I did not see or hear anything of the Dayton folks while here. Neither have I seen Mr Lincoln. I do not expect any of them to try very hard to find me. There is not much pleasure in hunting up poor folks in a large city or even in the country. Perhaps I judge harshly, but so it appears to me. I am glad to learn that Houston has been so fortunate as to borrow money on such favorable terms to pay for his house. Hope it will relieve his mind & make him quite amiable.

You speak of "honest man like Gov. Felch". An honest political man now a days is a "rara avis." We seldom or never see them. A politician will straddle a rotten plank or any other that he thinks will carry him into

[Aug. 8, 1856]

me & one book store & they are out of copies at present but will have more in about four weeks.

All the Cousins are out of town excepting Mr Williams & wife. Mrs Butler & family are gone, also Mr Smith & family.

Dr Andrews little boy Charley the older one, has been quite sick for some days. Something like Summer complaint & remittent fever I believe. I think Chicago has been remarkably healthy this summer. The weather is now very pleasant. I cannot say that I am any better to day than I was yesterday. Still have a good deal of soreness in the region of my liver, I feel

weak & uncomfortable.

Hereafter, I calculate to finish my Sabbath letters on Sunday so that you may get them Tuesday morning.

Good by My darling wife Kiss my precious children for me. Take good care of your self. May God bless you all

Your own loving husband

A. P. Chamberlain

Eddie Mark Van Cleve
Ann Arbor
Michigan

Chicago Aug. 13th 1856

My precious Son Eddie

I send you a little book called Scripture Facts, written by the Inspiration that teaches People of day & Sins upon Sins. It is in four volumes. It was written for little ones like you and I trust you will find the Stories very interesting. They will teach you how good God is & how much he loves us, & I hope as you read them He will give you wisdom to understand them & will lead you by His Holy Spirit to love Him as your God & Heavenly Father.

I hope you are a good boy & try to make Mother & Sister & brothers & all your playmates happy.

May God bless you my dear

child. Kiss mother, Sister & Brothers for your own loving father

H. P. Van Cleve



Mrs C. D. Van Cleve

Ann Arbor

Michigan

noon to see some land he wishes to have surveyed.
Am well & in good spirits this evening & in a great hurry to get this letter in the office.
Your loving husband
H. P. C.

Love to all

Chicago Tuesday eve.
July 15th 1856

My own dear wife.

For sadness I was leaving you & our precious lambs yesterday morning; got to the depot just in time; was not obliged to wait; very few people in the cars; 8 or 10 in front car, middle car tolerably filled; last car empty I believe. What a charming time to have taken my family to Chicago, thought I. Oh, that they were with. Had two seats to myself & plenty to spare; there had been rain enough to settle the dust and all I needed to make the journey delightful, was my wife & children. Left my "Tour on the Prairies" on your stand, forgot it in my hurry. Did not regret it however, had books

in my satchel, but Cd not read with much comfort, strained my eyes too much. Thought of you & my darlings; as I passed the pasture, looked out & saw the cow, quite a comfort I assure you; Whirled along rapidly, thinking of my wife and children; sighing for my wife & children; praying for my wife & children; still the iron horse whirled us along rapidly, puffing & snorting but never tiring; rattling over bridges, thundering over the plain, puffing & snorting he whirled us along; now in a harvest field, now through pasture grounds, now in a forest, now through a village all making way for the iron horse as he rushes madly by puffing & snorting.

Thus I was hurried along, through the day, only stopping at a few of the towns along the road. We arrived at this city a little after sun down without the slightest accident. I felt tired however when I reached my office, my head felt uncomfortable & I soon went to bed taken with me for bed follow my bible. & the Crook in the lot. I missed my precious ones, but soon fell asleep having committed all to the care of our Heavenly Father.

Woke up this morning well. Commenced boarding at Dr Andrews found all well as usual except Watty, he is not very well. John intends to take his family East soon. Invited him to stop & see you.

Went with him this after



Mrs Charlotte O. Van Cleve

Ann Arbor

Michigan

Chicago Saturday July 26th 1856

My own darling wife

My work for John W. has been six miles South, near the Michigan & Illinois Central R.R. I rode down on the R.R. in the morning & back in the evening. I finished last evening and as I was going to the station to take the train home I was told that the Superintendent of the Ill. Cent. R.R. Mr Stone, had been seriously injured by trying to get on a freight train, about 20 minutes before I came there. He had been brought in here. This happened a a very short distance from where I was at work. He died last night, leaving a wife & 4 children. Was an elder in the South Pres.n Church (old school), much respected & beloved. His wife had been informed of the accident & met him at the depot, when he was brought in. I am under the impression that he was insensible from the time of the injury till he died. This affliction & far less passes any thing in our lot that I am ashamed that I have ever felt that my petty troubles were afflictions. Mr Spring, an elder in the same Church, saw me this morning & immediately asked me for the Crook in the lot, which he wanted to give to Mrs Stone, the afflicted widow. You may tell Mrs Comforth, what has become of her book. I will get another for her as soon as some that have been sent for to N.Y. arrive. I do not know that I ever felt so sensibly for the loss of one whom I never knew; or sympathized so deeply for bereavement that I have never seen, as I do for that widow & children. After seeing Mr Spring I returned to my office & tried to pray for them & daily do so with tears. And shall we not pray for them my precious one. A husband & father stricken down so suddenly, while in perfect health. Is not this a sad, sad Crook in their lot.

The weather continues very hot, and I feel, in consequence, very languid or very lazy; hard to distinguish. While going to breakfast this morning, my limbs seemed very unwilling to do their duty, but my stomach urged them on, and they finally reached their destination, the table, without harm or accident. There my jaws did their duty to the entire satisfaction of my stomach. Stomach appears to be in a very sound & healthy condition but for some unaccountable reason, legs do not appear to like much locomotion. I hope they will feel better next week, for I have some more work, to do for Mr Williams.

Your letter of yesterday arrived this morning. I am glad to learn that Malcolm & Ellen have arrived at A.A. & that Ellen & Mr Mellen intend to accompany Malcolm to Otter tail Lake. It will be a pleasant trip for them and it will be pleasant for Malcolm, to have their company. If you & I cd play that we were a young couple & shd join them, what fun we might all have. We might put Paul out to nurse, to some Irish or Dutch woman. By the bye, speaking of nursing, I wish to inform you that among other troubles I have been afflicted (dont laugh) with sore nipples. It must be from nursing I suppose. It may possibly be owing to the chafing of my undershirt, when I have been reeking with perspiration. They smarted so for a day or two, that I cd not bear my clothes to touch them. I found relief from bathing them with cold water. This piece of information may be serviceable to you sometimes.

I said above that my stomach was in a sound condition; of this I am not quite sure. I have suffered considerably the past week from pain in my heart, chest, stomach &c, & think it may be caused by indigestion. In fact I have been somewhat uncomfortable & want you by me to pet me a little.

July 27th Sabbath. I have felt unaccountably sad to day. Oh that you were by my side to cheer & comfort me. When will it be so, that we can again spend our evenings & sabbaths together, & with our dear children? I feel lonely, very lonely. When I awake in the morning I am alone, I go to & from my meals, alone, (generally); I go to church alone & return alone; when there, sit alone. I return to my office & am alone. I spend the sabbath in a great measure alone, and retire to rest alone. Perhaps after all, it is not so unaccountable that I sometimes feel sad; and now with a little more reason as I do not feel very comfortable in body. I feel better in body however than I did last night & hope that in a day or two I will be quite well. — Yesterday afternoon Malcolm's Tel. Despatch was recd. I calculate to be at the Depot to morrow morning to meet our friends, at 8.30. How pleasant it wd be if you cd accompany them this fun. — Mr Done is to be buried this afternoon & the bell is now ringing. I must attend the funeral, that is I wish to.

Have just returned from the 2d Pres. Ch: where Mr Patterson preached Mr Done's funeral sermon. The house is very large & was filled; the employees of all the R.Rs in town, I believe, were there. As many as 40 carriages went to the Cemetery, making a very long procession. — It is a solemn thing to be taken away so suddenly, & by this event we are warned to be always ready. — I was mistaken when I said he was insensible from the time of the accident till his death. Mr Spd told me he recognized him when he saw him. Life is very uncertain, & this world is very unsatisfactory to an immortal soul; full of sorrow & care, & anxiety & pain. We are all seeking after riches; after a shadow; after we know not what. Our imaginary wants make us miserable. If we cd but be content with little; with the supply of our actual necessities & spend our time in doing good, & always live prepared & ready for death how much happier we shd be. If our heaps up —

riches, he must soon part with them; leave them behind, and go from the world as he came in, naked. May God have mercy on us & direct us in the path of duty! and may he bless us as he sees we need. The time that is allotted us here is short, and it wo^d be a great comfort, if we c^d spend it together & with our children. To share & encourage each other; to share the labor & responsibility of bringing up our dear children; to partake of each others joys & share each others sorrows. Every day as I grow older, it seems that you are more & more dear to me, & this long separation becomes more & more painful, & hard to be endured. If we humble ourselves as we ought & pray as we ought, will not our Heavenly Father hear our prayers? We have his promise darling. Let us look to him. Let us pray earnestly & constantly that God may open the way for us again to be united, & do not let us give over praying 'till he answers our prayers. Let this be a petition in all our prayers, & particularly at 9 o'clock every evening. God will hear us.

I have written you a gloomy letter, but you must not let it fill you with gloom. Now that I unburthened my feelings to you I feel much better. And that is one way that you c^d comfort me by your presence. I c^d tell you all my troubles & you c^d sympathize with me. But I know now that I shall have your sympathy & I feel better.

You are a dear good woman to comfort me in this way & I wo^d not make you unhappy for a moment, for the world.

Love & kisses to the children

Your loving husband

J. P. Van Cleve

Morning

(Julien House) Dubuque, Iowa, Sept 5. 1855

My own darling wife. — Here I am safe & sound, thanks to our Heavenly Father's kind care. Immediately after my arrival (after attending to the inner man) I called upon the Surveyor Gen'l & presented the letter given by Mr Wilson of Chicago. This letter was all that was necessary & the Surveyor Gen'l has promised to give me work in the Spring. He has not yet rec'd the returns of those engaged in running out the township lines & says that when he does receive them it will be too late to commence operations this fall. He was very friendly & seemed anxious to serve me for Mr Wilson's sake. — I wrote yesterday to you in much haste & did not tell you that Mr Wilson told me that if I did not get work this fall that he would like to know my whereabouts as he expected to employ some one to examine some lands in Iowa for a Rail Road company. If it would be pleasant work for me he thought. He is a good christian & seemed anxious to assist me for Christ's sake. For see how our Heavenly Father provides for us. — John Woodbridge also wishes me to do some work for him, if I can. I cannot leave here for Chicago before Monday morning, without breaking the Sabbath

Expect to be [illegible] Monday evening.
If I undertake the works spoken of, may
not be home for some weeks. In the mean
time may God take care of you my
ling & of my dear children. I know you
may for me & our Heavenly Father hears
our prayers. — The cars were much
crowded last night & I slept but a
few winks. We had showers during the night
& this morning, & the streets of this city altho
paved are very muddy. There appears
to be a good deal of life here & I sh^d
think it was a place of considerable bu-
siness. — Passed through Galena this
morning. It has changed much, of course
since we were there, but looks as if busi-
ness were dull. — Health & spirits good thanks
to our Heavenly Father. Hope you will
be able to read this scrawl, it is as
much as I can do. Take good care
of yourself. Expect to go at J. Wood-
bridge's work as soon as I return to
Chicago. It will help us some. — Per-
haps we may be able to dispose of
that vexatious land this winter. I
think prospects brighten.
Your own loving husband,
H. P. Van Cleve

Ann Arbor Aug 12th 1856

My precious Husband,

I am going to have a little chat with you to night for I know you want to hear me talk so I will just sit down beside you while you rest your wearied, sick body, and chat away, Shall I tell you what I did to day? I rose betimes and after breakfast helped Bridget to iron as by so doing I saw just half the wood otherwise used, I have done so the last few weeks About ten I started for the office and at the gate next Houston with a letter for me from Mary which had been put into his boyle mistake, I thanked him and went on to the office, (he walking beside me) to see if there was any thing else for me, He kept up the ghost of a conversation, and parted without a tear. Found no more letters but a newspaper — came home reading Mary's letter which was an urgent petition to go to Whitmore, concluded not to go, and went on ironing — All through the day I was cheered by the thought that on the Central Rail-road somewhere there was a little paper messenger coming to me, and I conjectured from time to time about where it was. At noon the ironing was over and after dinner I Copped down a few minutes with the

newspaper in my hand and [illegible] a little, then I roused myself and went to [illegible] on a double gown I am making for Anna, at about four Dr Sager came in and revaccinated Paul the first operation did not take effect. I resolved myself not to go visiting but to go after your letter and soon after tea went to the office. Was highly gratified to receive your Sunday and Monday letter, but grieved beyond all telling to learn that you are still so feeble, read your letter then yes three times without stopping and felt as if I must fly to you and comfort you. thought I must go to [illegible] Mrs E Lamforth for sympathy, when her sweet voice under my window [illegible] to [illegible] my drooping head and [illegible] in. She came to hear if I had any late news from you, and a talk of an hour with her was like balm to my wounded spirit. I really believe God sent her to me as an angel of consolation. We talked and cried together till we both felt comforted, and assured that our Heavenly Father would not lay on us more than we could bear. Let us lean hard upon him darling the rod is used in love by one who sympathizes with us and who loves us too well to remove it until it has done its work. Let us simply pray for grace to bear it and beseech him that we may profit by it and let us try to wait his own time for the removal of it. This evening Mrs Morgan has spent with me and we had a pleasant chat. The money you sent will be a great comfort to me. It will please you to learn that I yesterday rec'd $50.00 from Mr Lincoln and when I tell you that last evening found me but with two dollars in my purse you will not be astonished. I paid fifteen to Maynard, nearly ten to Clark five to Schoff five to Bridget seven and a half to the church being our last quarter's rent and the present one in advance three payments with a dollar here and there just about drained me but made my credit good. The money you sent will help me much because it will keep me all out of debt for a little while, as I always pay up when I can. I hope you did not scrimp yourself to send it. Mr Lincoln writes, and Ellen hinted, that I am still to have from Malcolm One hundred dollars a year payable quarterly during the absence of the children. Mr Lincoln has been to Beloit to take the Stutson children (I presume on a visit to some friend) and speaks of the country as being far beyond his expectations. I had Gates look over your minerals and take from them what he wanted. he seemed much pleased and took a small boxfull

Friday morning. On Wednesday morning the party came from Ypsilanti and almost perforce carried Paul and me to Whitmore I refused and refused until I was ashamed, and finally more to gratify Gates (who I think really wanted me to go) than for any thing else I went. The weather was delightful. Paul was charming and I enjoyed myself very much expect for the thoughts of my far away sick husband. I longed to run away from every thing and sit down beside you to take your weary head in my lap and to comfort you. My heart was with you dear all the time and how are you this morning? I am [illegible] to hear [illegible] to learn something charming. We are all well the children are very precious, and I think strangers generally think they are about right. Sam is a great favorite. Gates has won the hearts of all the children. He has promised to come over and spend the Sabbath with me if he can. I must hasten with this to the office and it may be there is a letter there from you, for the mails may not have arrived when the children went last night. I'll send love. Good bye darling. May God protect and bless you. Your own dear wife

If you don't get well soon do come home — } C. O. Van Cleve

Not no'd you [illegible], and am [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]



Horatio P. Van Cleve,
care of John Wentworth
Chicago.
Illinois.

Ann Arbor July 31th 1856

My own dear Husband

Yours of last evening reached me to-night, and I was very grateful for the comforting words it contained and also for the material aid, I hope it did not trouble you to send it, I should not have applied for it but that I needed it very much. To-morrow I write to Cincinnati for another payment which will be the last for some time I suppose, when it is rec'd I can pay Clark and some to Maynard. he begins to make motions, and I will pay him something I want you to get your instruments and pay for them, then what you earn you can pay debts with as fast as you can and once free from debt, we can get along. You say I write as if I was low spirited I don't know that I am, but every one seems to think I am, I think it is only a kind of reaction which is going on after an unusual excitement and in a short time I think I will be all right. I miss my little folks very much, you can't realize how much and I miss the big folks too more and more. I never can get used to it that's clear It is all right, but it hurts just as bad

as if it was all wrong. I do not murmur
but I feel the rod although I know it is
used in kindness by a father's hand.
When Malcolm stopped at Chicago, did he
pay you for the things you had purchased
for him? he spoke of doing so. Were you
able to get what he wanted? and did you
take my Malcolm's skates to Chicago to send
to him. I looked for them in vain and
concluded you must have them. Be sure
to let me know about it. I think Mal-
colm feels that we have done well by the
children, and is very grateful to us al-
though he says very little about it. I re-
marked to him on Sunday that I should
miss them much, and he replied that they
would miss me, and my care also —
Dear Malcolm I love him very much
and would like to see him preparing
for his home in another world as assiduous-
ly as he is fitting up his temporal home.
I hope he may live to know how precious
the dear Savior is, and to feel that an
interest in him is worth ten thousand
worlds. I sent Malcolm a Geography and
Atlas, Spelling book, Arithmetic etc. I hope
he will make a good use of them. He needs
them much I am sure. I am sorry Willie
is [illegible] so sadly. He had not rec'd our

letters had he? I wish he would come
here. I know I could cheer him up, and
he would be a great comfort to me.
Ed has gone to Grand Rapids on a visit.
They are bewitched to have him stay
West, but he is homesick for Brooklyn
and expects to return. If he does he
has given me H. W. Beecher's Photograph
handsomely framed. It hangs in the
parlor and I value it highly. We
have had one good talk about Anna.
So much company as I have had has
interfered somewhat with the chats we ex-
pected to have. From what I can learn
she is doing well, and Mort and Sheare
more and more attached to each other.
She wants however to visit home this
fall, and I do not think we can afford
it, but of course have given her no answer
yet. I want to see her more than words
can tell, but the money we would have
to furnish for her travelling expenses if it
could be raised ought to be paid to Mort
for her school expenses. I have been mild
enough to think at one time of going with
Ed in September and making her a short
visit but that our poverty will prevent
also, and I try to leave it all in the hands
of the Lord. I think of you at 9 o'clock, and

try to ask God to shorten this separation of consistent with his holy will — When shall we all meet again? Echo answers "when"? The children are all well and asleep but Lizzie left a kiss for dear father. Sam is the brightest boy about, and Paul is a darling, all are precious, lovely children let us thank God for their continued health. I dined at Mrs Sanforth's to-day no company but myself. They sent for me because they thought I was lonely very kind in them. We talked of you they think you are about right. I went to prayer meeting last night with Mrs E Sanforth and her mother. It was a rest to me and I shall try to go always. Mr Chapin and wife will be here, in about two weeks. Good night dear. it is late, and my eyes won't work any longer — Friday morning. All well. this morning bright and pleasant. and but for the shadow of your absence on my heart all would be light. God help me to bear it. I go now to give Lizzie a music lesson, and then from one thing to another till night. I have had four letters this week but am greedy enough to wish for another. I expect to-day to hear from Anna. Good bye my own dear husband God bless and keep you

Your own true hearted wife

C. O. Van Cleve

8/7/1856

Ann Arbor Aug 7th/56

My Dear Husband,

I write a few lines to you to-night to say to you that I have heard from Ellen at St Pauls. She says Malcolm was there and is much grown and improved, and that he will write letters by them to us. She also says that if Cliff can bear the expense of a journey to St Paul, he can come on his journey thence will cost him nothing if he can be there by the 12th or 15th of Aug to meet the teams. That my brother can promise him nothing this winter but that he feels quite confident

he will have business for him in the Spring.
I shall write to him tomorrow and advise him to come immediately. Should he come he will telegraph you to that effect and you can meet him at the Depôt and hand him Malcolm's Skates.
I hope he will go.
We are all well. There is a great and very sudden change in the weather to-day. We shall need warm shawls tomorrow. It is a nice night to sleep to-night. I wish you were here. Can you keep warm on your board these cool nights?

I must drop a line to Malcolm at St Pauls so I must say good night. I am truly thankful to learn that he is well.
God bless you darling
Your own dear wife
C. Otan Clem

accomplish what he designs
Heard from Anna on Saturday — he was well and feeling
very well, spoke of coming home
this fall as a possibility. It all
looks very vague to me however
yet. She had rec'd the Gooseberries
that Bridget sent her and wrote
a sweet little note to her,
which seems to go to the right
spot. I am hoping that your
Sunday and Monday letter
will bring me cheering news
about yourself. If you are really
sick you must come home dear
and be nursed. I wish I dared
to hope that [illegible]
more favorable circumstances
this fall, but we must leave it all
in the hands of our Heavenly
Father. I will write you a longer
letter in a few days. It is late
now and I must say Good bye
God bless you my own dear
husband. Your own true wife

Lee D.V.

The children all send love to father

Ann Arbor Aug 10/58

My Darling Husband

Your last two
letters were rec'd duly, one
Friday and one last night
I am afraid you are far from
well, and I do long to be
with you to soothe your pain
and comfort you. God only knows
when we shall be permitted
to commune with each other
in any more satisfactory way
than on paper, but living
as we do now is, I do believe
taking years from the time
of both of us. We must try to
submit patiently to it, but
it is very agonizing is it not?
God help us, for very vain
is the help of man.

Monday morning. I went last night
to hear a Mr Mead of the five
points mission, was much
interested. On Friday morning
Antoinette, Mary, and Gates
came over, and remained
until Saturday evening, we
had a very pleasant time.
Gates is a lovely boy. I wish he
could have staid longer.
They spent a day in Chicago
and were going to hunt you
up when Mary told them
you were at work a few miles
out of the city which was
the case when she went
to Superior. They spoke with
regret that they had not seen
you. The party to Whitmore
comes off on Wednesday but
I shall not go. I am strongly

urged but at present am de-
termined to resist all impor-
tunities. I should like to
have had you hear Dr Tap-
pan yesterday. His subject
was, true success in life and
it applied to you dear. It was
very interesting. He spoke of
the influence of a good man
or woman as being undy-
ing, and portrayed the
man who amassed riches
in such colors that I was
rather proud of our poverty.
I am learning new lessons
this year, I see things different-
ly from what I ever did be-
fore. God is training us for
something, we know not yet
what it is. May we take the
lessons to heart and may they

Ann Arbor July 15th 1864

My darling Husband,

Your welcome letter came to night and made me very happy — I am glad you had so pleasant a trip and don't I wish I had been with you — I do not doubt Ma con was quite a comfortable sight to behold by way of parting glimpse of home. It left an impression on your mind of good bowls of bread and milk in front of rosy cheeked babies which must have been quite comforting — I heard you say much, but we must not complain — God's ways are best and we must submit to them. But dear, "there is a river the streams whereof make glad the city of our God," and one day when the head and toil, the dust and strife of life are over, you and I side by side shall view, and talk of our past trials with wonder that we ever considered them such. No more parting there dear, no more wringing of our hearts as we, choking say "Good-bye." Eternity together, and with Jesus! Can we not hope a glorious for this?

A letter from Mary Van Cleve tells me she is going with a Hayton party and Mrs Sargeleve to Lake Superior to-morrow and expresses regret that they did not know of your prolonged visit says that John would have come over to see you if he had supposed you were at home so long —
A long letter from Cliff to-day in answer to your letter which was dropped on the way to the office telling me he is very anxious to go with Malcolm that his health requires a change more than we imagine, that he does not care for wages if he can only do enough so as not to be a burden to Malcolm. He is ready and anxious to go immediately and wants me to let him know as soon as I can learn M's decision. I have written and shall write as soon as I see M again. I am anxious he should go am sure he could pay his way by his services, and am sure from what he writes that he is in great need of the change — I expect Malcolm and Mother any time now and am getting quite impatient. You say on the envelope that you have rec'd a letter in acknowledgment of one you wrote here. Was it the dropped letter to which you refer Mrs Tremaine called yesterday she has made a flying visit here. She wanted Anna's number, says she shall certainly call and would like to have her visit her, spend several days with her etc — Strange that your family are so moral they cannot call. God keep them ever pure, or rather make them so — Mr Chapin is to decide yes or no this week and write to us. Shall know I presume on next Sabbath — The weather is very hot. The children are very sweet. They talk about you and long to go to Chicago —
I took back that flashy riband for I have J. W. M. had rather cheated me. He took it very peacably and pleasantly and I bought a parasol for my self instead besides a few yards of pretty Gingham for the little girl at Otter-tail as a more appropriate present. The parasol cost more than the riband but I needed it this hot weather and I have not owned one for more than ten years. Did I do right? The children are all asleep. Paul is very precious. I shall go to bed now and finish this to-morrow. Am glad you have a

job to do already. Am sorry Wally is sick but hope he will be better soon. Hope John will stop on his way East. Love to him and all — Ed Welles will not be here till next week — Thursday morn. Good morning dear. Excessively hot night no sleep or at least no rest. The children lying round loose on the floor etc, not a breath of air yet. We are having our hottest weather now. I trust this great heat will not last long. It weakens me exceedingly. I am hoping for a New Haven letter to day and shall be very glad to get it. I suppose Malcolm will certainly be here this week. He tas cho is getting somewhat homesick or at least quite anxious to see Se-so-ki-a. How do you like the Crook in the Lot as you read more of it? I am going to begin it again to-day. How long a job have you to do for John? Did you lose much by staying at home so long? Have you seen Sedgwick? I must go to market now, and must hasten this into the office. The children are not all up yet. Mortie has just wrasted out and sends love. Sizzie ditto. She says kiss Johnny and Wally for her. Good bye dear husband

Your own dear wife

C. O. Van Cleve



Horatio P. Van Cleve
Care of John Woodbridge
Chicago
Illinois.

would be a benefit to me I know. Mary Clarke goes to New York to-morrow I hope she may succeed in her undertaking she deserves some reward for her industry and perseverance. I spent an hour this afternoon at Mrs Lamphitt. She widow very lonely as usual Mrs Welles, the old lady and Mrs Douglass called in while I was there they were very cordial and thought Paul was a wonder to behold. I have pretty much renounced society little parties are given at my right hand and at my left, and I am not "anxiously expected." Perhaps then I can more correctly say that society has renounced me, well be it there is very little satisfaction in it at best. I am going to try to make some arrangement so that I can attend prayer meeting regularly and that will be more comfort to me than thing else in the way of evening gatherings — I suppose we have best retain our pew. I believe they intend to re shingle the

Ann Arbor July 21st. 1856

My own dear Husband

I read your Sunday letter to night and answer it now although I wrote to you yesterday because your reference to St Paul reminded me to tele you what I had forgotten yesterday viz that there is a letter here for Malcolm from St Paul. Of course I cannot tele its contents, but will let you know as soon as he comes. Why don't he come? I have begun to torment myself to-night by thinking some of them may be sick but I hope not. I think as a certainty almost, that they will be here to-morrow and shall confidently expect them. Ed is to be here to morrow, and they may

be on the Lake together tonight
if they all come by the way of
Cleveland — I am very anxious
to see Ed and Anna's likeness
I wrote to Anna and Mort
to-day. I am glad you like
the "Crook in the Lot" it is delight-
ful I think. I feel lonely to night
and want you beside me.
The children are all doing nicely
and every thing goes on well
Now they are all asleep but
Sizzie and she is on the use
of retiracy if you were here we
could have such a nice talk
I hope Malcolm will be able to
stop a while with me when
he comes. I never have a chance
to have a good visit with
him — When he is here it is for
so short a time that I have
not time to collect my wits
before he is gone again —
I wish I could think of some
way to give my mind a rest
really I need it. the confusion
and forgetfulness of which you
have heard me speak, trouble
me much. It is a sort of be-
wildered feeling, when I am
speaking sometimes, my ideas
seem suddenly to leave me
and I don't know what I
am talking about — Perhaps
it is partly owing to my extreme
weakness from nursing and
my faculties may be strong-
er when I have breaked baby
I hope so. Don't distress your-
self, it is nothing new and
perhaps calls for no uneasiness
I do hope mother will come
with Malcolm, her presence

us to think of what we ought to do
I have been re reading the "Night
of Weeping" it is consolatory and
very spiritual calculated to strengthen
in ones faith and lift one above
the world. I love to read it dearly
I am glad you got some books
for the children and will try to
have them make a good use
of them. They all get along well
Pants arm is sore, but he is
very good. He says "Papa" in
his baby way, and brings the
tears to my eyes, but I crowd them
back and try to be brave —
I am so glad for our dear boys sake
that Cliff is to be with him this
winter. Cliff is a boy of good prin-
ciples and excellent habits —
The children are all in bed and
I must go thither myself as I am
quite tired. I think of you these cool
nights and wondering you sleep
warm — I am thankful that you
are better and hope your next letter
will bring some cheering news —
God bless you dear — Tom own dear wife
C. O. Vanleben

Sabbath evening
Ann Arbor Aug 18th 1856
My own darling
I have just returned from church, where I have listened for the second time to day to a very uninteresting preacher a stranger from the East, however what he said was good and it may have done some good. I felt very lonely in our big pew all alone, and when I came out of church I hurried home, not speaking to a single soul but yearning after you dear. I wanted your arm to lean upon. I wanted to talk to you, and it was, and still is, hard work to keep back the tears when I think how much we love each other and how widely we are separated. I pray God it may not

always be thus. I begin to fear that your business is not sufficiently constant to do much good, and I wish you might engage in something else. What, I could not advise, but it seems to me there must be something in this whole world for you to do. We must pray and trust. Oh for more faith I do not want wealth, but I want to be able to live with you, some where, any where. Ed has got an excellent situation in the very first banking house in the United States. Duncan & Sherman he thinks the work will be pretty hard but I hope he will stick to it. Gonsam Cliff I hope, did he not look badly? I hope a year at Otter

tail will cure him. I had nearly given him up but was very glad to see him. I suppose Ellen and Mr Mellen will be along this week and I do hope they will stop a day or so in Chicago. I had a letter from mother she speaks with certainty of coming to Michigan in September I shall enjoy her visit much. The folks begin to talk again about this house being sold. I hope we shall have time to look about for another, if such is the case. If we move, a smaller house would answer very well for the winter, and would save wood. My future seems so uncertain, that it seems useless to plan, still it is necessary for

The children were much pleased with your story of the mouse, and were able to bear the account of his death with fortitude—
God bless you dear, and bring you to me soon
All send love,
Your own dear wife
C. O. Van Cleve

I will write a good long letter on Sunday if possible

Ann Arbor Aug 21st 1856

My Darling Husband,
Your letters of last night and of Tuesday are unanswered, and I am reduced to a few minutes to write this scratch. I was too tired last night and now it is nearly time to close the mail. I am glad you are so much better sorry you are out of business but believe that God will point out some way in which we can live. let us leave it all in his hands and wait patiently his own good time
Had a letter from Willie Davies. he is going to the Southern market with some mules for his Uncle Henry

has consequently given up the idea of coming to Michigan at present. Seems in better spirits. Children all well and doing as well as any children can without a father. I am not very well but hope it will pass off would take blue pile but am afraid of it. Dr Sager was gone east when he returns it I am not better will speak to him. I am not sick only lazy and my back aches. Cap little Sons brought me Ellis's letter. It had been put in his box by mistake again I invited him in, read the letter to him and had quite a sociable time with him

Hope Ellen will be along soon. Am very glad you saw Cliff. I shall hear from Anna to day I think. I hear nothing more about the house being sold but have an idea it will be soon. It is really so out of repair that we can not live in it another winter without some repairs. I am doing my best to live a day at a time and have no to-morrow. Humbly trusting God from day to day I feel that we shall be taken care of and I would not choose the way. Don't be concerned about me I shall come out of the kinks

Ann Arbor July 2[illegible]th /56

My own dear Husband,

I write a few lines to say that your letter of Saturday reached me yesterday morning and your [illegible] letter last night. They found us all well, but myself in a low state of mind in consequence of the departure of our friends. The house seems lonely indeed, but a few days will custom me to it in a measure. I presume you met them. I hope you were able to have some conversation with them. I have been thinking about it a good deal, and am inclined to think that if in this year's [illegible]

[illegible] managed when you come to look over accounts. I am doing my best but feel that that is bad enough. I am afraid you are far from well. be careful dear of your health. I cannot spare you yet. Mother intends spending the fall months with me, and it will be a great comfort to me I think I think we had better give up all thoughts of moving at present. Malcolm and Mr Mellen are of that opinion I think I might take two or three boarders this fall and help ourselves that way. We will see. We will trust God, and we will not fear all well. God bless and keep you dear. In great haste but with much love. Your own dear Wife C. O.

find you cannot get enough business to support us, it will be a good plan for us to emigrate to Minnesota enter a tract of land, and go to work in the mingled capacities of farmers teachers surveyors and missionaries. What do you think? Malcolm speaks of it as of a thing that may be — God will direct us aright I believe I have no wish to do aught but what he shall direct —

Your last letter contains distressing news, I sincerely sympathize with the bereaved family of Mr Slow, and trust God will be a Husband to the widow and a Father to the fatherless —

I shall write in a day or two for my last quarter's payment from Malcolm. He did not leave me any surplus money, and I am in debt for the making of Horace's clothes. He gave me twenty dollars to get Ellen's outfit and it did not more than do that and pay for some things I had bought for peters cho. If you can lend me $5.00 I will be glad and will return it to you when my payment comes, if you wish it. If you cannot spare it I will get it of Mr Voorhies. I am going to scrimp myself wonderfully the rest of the summer. I hope you will not think I have