



Horatio P. Van Cleve and
family papers.

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Amherst Dec 21st 1853

My dear boy,

Your beautiful present
was handed me last night by Mr.
Maynard. It is an elegant picture and
~~a capital likeness~~, and then you can
hardly realize how much I prize it as
a keepsake from my dear boy. I shall
indeed find it in one case. Two such
fine looking youths, your friend, if
there be any truth in physiognomy,
is a man of fine mind, his face is
certainly very intellectual and one
that it is pleasant to look at. I trust
at some future day I may be able to
see the original and make his acquaintance.
You would have laughed to
hear the children's remarks on the pic-
ture. Lizzie thought you looked particu-
larly roguish, and I agree with
her. There are many surmises

last where Mrs. Hubbard was the first
and how he managed to catch her
thought. He must put up his mouth
etc. in a comb before he began his
meals, and Seymour suggested that
he must be obliged to use a comb after
he finished his meals. All admiring
the picture exceedingly and it is among
my choicest possessions - I send you the
copy of Bill's letter, the only, or best way
that I can give you an account of his
last experience with the poor man. Can the
letter I should like to have it again some
time and possibly it might be of some
use at some future day. I intend writing
to home today and shall direct to
Rio Janeiro. I wish you would write
also. I think it would be a great
pleasure to him. I expect Anna to arrive
we can hardly wait to see her then
and I will write you a joint letter
on Sunday or Monday if possible.

I don't like to write to you either but
I am doubtful about owing you
a letter. However I will write if
possible in the course of a week.
The Episcopal ladies had a supper at
Cook's last night to assist in fur-
nishing the Church. They raised
about \$200.00. I heard that some
since Mrs. Miller called in this morn-
ing to return some thing of mine
and desired me to send a great
deal of love to your family.
The Episcopal church will be very
pretty when completed and will
be dedicated I presume soon after
the 1st of May. I send you the
paper, to day, with a notice of
Miss Stocutt's marriage. It had
not taken place as soon as I supposed.
I suppose you will all have a merry
Christmas together, and wish you
all finds of happiness. Did you hear
of Harriet yesterday?

knowing that they are
going to be married. I like them
but I know nothing about it.
My husband's health is not very good
and his return, and I am in hope
that to have him get his affairs
arranged that he can go back
and see go down. His thoughts and
hopes are the same, and I think you
will improve his health and spirits
and be able to move us then and
become well established in business.
It must this mile soon take place and
that we may have a pleasant home
and a good one.

Just keep together, and which we
may have to our children when we
have no further use for it. I am im-
patient to see your new book and surely
hope you may do well with it. Love and
Christmas wishes to all. Write soon.
All send love. God bless you very
your own dear mother C. A.

ALBANY
Mich

Mortimer Thayer
141 Schermerhorn St.
Brooklyn
N. Y.

Am. Arbor Thursday Oct 23/6

Dear Mat,

Went to the R.R. this morning
expecting a letter from Miss
appointed, came back. I took the
children to the depot to see the long train
carrying visitors to the State fair at
Detroit. Home again, Bridget
is getting dinner for us. By the by
she was married yesterday to
Pat Deane, & Kate Riley & John Deane
I knew nothing about it till this
morning. — I saw Edward May this
morn at the depot, he says Mr. Whinnett is
very ill; the physicians think he is
past hope of recovery. I regret much
to hear it.

Children all well. Self, little
Am getting home sick however,
must visit children & Mary

home. She has been gone a
very, very long time.

If she is at Mooklga
when you receive this give her
much love from her discon-
solate bereaved.

Remember to all,

Sincerely yours

H. P. Van Buren,

Children all impatient to
see mother & Nannie.

Packed boxes for the jumping off
place.

Rec'd Jan 18th 19th
Thurs day Evening

Miss Anna Houston Van Cleve
Care of J. G. Lincoln Esq
Cincinnati
Ohio

[Ca. Jan. 14, 1855]

Dear Anna I wish I
could see you. Next
week Mother will come
for you. And won't you be
glad she will take you to
England? Because they want
her you know dear aunt. I feel
as if I was little mother
if Abby writes and says very well
yours dear sister Lizzie

Dear cousin Anna I am glad
when you come home for we
have a nice time. Mortie is up
head ^{goes} down for and gets
up head again. Mortie says
that they wish you would come
home. I thought Mortie says that
George is six years old and he
three years old and he gets above
I can't right much year cousin
to Ellen
* George Moore is six years old and he is there.

Sizzie & Ellen have made
their first attempt at letter
writing on the other side of this
sheet. If you find any diffi-
culty in deciphering them, you
may lay them aside till you see
mother and she will read
them for you. They think & talk
a great deal about you, and
will be delighted to see you
home again. They are now
in bed talking about Rail
Road traveling, & telegraphs.
Sizzie thinks it strange that
the letters do not get lost when
they pass the posts that hold up
the wires. — Will you be
glad to see mother, in eight
weeks? Just think of it, only
eight weeks.

Dear Darling
1881

When you come home you can go
on with History Geography etc
and will have abundance of
time to practise too. You must
learn to draw too, and if near
all well, we can spend the sum-
mer very pleasantly. Monday
morning. Have just rec'd a long
letter from Ed. and a few lines
from Mont. Ed. has concluded
to remain in New York, and
I am right glad of it. Mont had
just rec'd a long letter from you
in which he said you seem very
anxious to see me. I hope my
darling you will soon be grati-
fied. Keep up your spirits now, it
will not be a week or not much
more after you receive this let-
ter before you see me, if I am
able to start as soon as I hope to.
I must write a few lines to
Aunt Mary. Good bye darling.
God bless you. Your own dear mother

Anna Carter

(d. 21)

Sabbath evening Jan 14, 1853

My darling Child,

I have thought
of you a great deal to day and
tried to think what you
have been doing. I suppose you
went to church this morning, if it
was not too cold, and after
reading this afternoon you be-
gan to write to Mont. When
the gas was lighted and when
it was too dark to see, perhaps
you sat in that big leather
chair that used to be Pearl's
dear Grand father's, and thought
of dear Mont and dear home.
You thought that perhaps in two
weeks more you would be
with you, and that made you
cry with joy, then while you

were feeling very happy about it. Marie came in and turned on the gas, you were near the table and either read or wrote till tea-time. and now it is near by nine o'clock, and you are getting sleepy, so good night darling, go to sleep, dream of seeing mother soon, think of dear Mamma's room writing to you who are dearer to him than any thing on earth. I will sit up a while longer and write to you then after asking God to protect and bless my absent children, and go to sleep and perhaps dream of you. I asked Mother to-day if he would not be sorry to hear me go, he said no, because I was going to bring dear Mamma home. The little girls have gone to

bed after having first written to you. It is not probable you ever read their letter, but do not be distressed about it. I will interpret it, or rather translate it to you when I come. I find that I can leave home early next week which I hope to be able to do. I shall probably write you but one more letter after this but father will go on writing to you just as usual. You did perfectly right to tell Louie the exact truth about those dresses. You could not have done any thing else, and cousin Mary Mamma could find no fault with it I am sure. Aunt Mary writes that you practise faithfully. I am glad to hear it, and I know I shall find you much improved

but very little business of any
description. The location of the
House of Refuge, west of the High
Cultural School in the immediate
vicinity, in addition to its being the
Capital of the State, has raised the
value of the property around it
they are making calculations on a
large city. I do not believe it will
have a population of 1000 in
twenty years from this day. It
has now a population of about 200.
They value it at 2000. — If the High School
for the women had also been located
at this place, it would have been
a very important addition to the city.
But I am sure for the city.

Evenings (or rather night, for it is
now a bad time), I have just returned
from Church. Heard Mr. Frank
the Pres. Clergyman, preach. Hope he is
a good man, but do not think he
is calculated to build up a Church
or to strengthen one already established.
He was not designed for a preacher of the gospel.

Shrewsbury, June 17th 1864 (Sabbath)
My dear wife

I rec'd your letter of
Friday or Saturday morning. I am
glad that our letters can travel so
quickly. There is no reason why a letter
sh^d be longer on the way than it is.

I am glad that you have heard of
Malcolm's safe arrival at Cincinnati.
It is not that he is to visit you soon,
but to put much that he intends to
make so short a stay at R.H.

I will try to arrange my business
here so that it will not keep me there
I will leave home if possible, for I
want to see him.

I have not seen the level on
Friday. Yesterday it rained, and I
occupied the time in drawing some
plans and preparing for operations
again as soon as the weather will per-
mit. The rain this morning kept
me from Church. You see I am a free
lover (Christian). It rained quite long

just at the time for church and so I
had no conscience I shall have to
trust the weather will be such that
I can go this afternoon.

I regret much to learn that you
have suffered so much from sickness
since I left home. I did hope to
hear that you were better instead of
worse. I feel deeply for you my friend
and I pray God to take care
of you and restore you to health &
strength. I have been very pa-
tient thinking under your affliction
I will work hard for you, and try to
lighten your ~~burden~~ ^{trouble} as
possible. My health is very good, more
was better, for I think I ought to be
very thankful. I wish it was in
my power to send you some es-
sential in the way of funds, for I know
you are much in need. I will do
as soon as possible.

There is no danger of my making a per-
manent residence here. Property is left,

five cent higher than it is in New Haven,
and the general population about four
thirds of what it is there. Unimproved,
washed lands are valued as high as
cultivated ground near H. H. is I think
to, and they are over 40 miles from the
Main Road. The ~~Western~~ R.R. is but
within 20 miles, I believe, but that
is not completed. The high price of
property will retard the growth of the
town & the settlement of the adjoining
country very much. Strangers come
on almost daily to settle & then go off
to purchase elsewhere.

It seems like a long time since I left
home, and if I had nothing to do, I would
not ~~enjoy~~ ^{enjoy} the ~~operation~~ ^{operation} from my good
days; but as long as I can do any good
thing for you I feel contented, and am
in good spirits. - If I depended on
society for my happiness, I should
should not be the place of my choice.
There is but little inducement in
this respect, and there appears to be



Miss
Mrs Charlotte O. Van Buren
Care of T. M. Lincoln Esq.
Cincinnati
Ohio

To do. — I suppose you are now in Cincinnati & that our dear Mamma is very happy, and that you are not sorry. May God bless you both. I sincerely hope you have met with no detentions by the way. The train that was due here early this morning from the West had not arrived at two o'clock. I have not made any inquiries since. It is said that ^{there} was a Telegraphic Report that there had been a collision out West, but nobody knew.

I see by the Telegraphic news in the "Advertiser", that it was very cold yesterday at Cincinnati, & that navigation between there & Pittsburgh was suspended on account of the ice. This may interfere with your visit to Peach Orchard.

Sabbath afternoon, I have thought much of you to day; trusting that you had a safe journey & that you reached Cin. last evening; and slept with our dear Mamma in your arms; that you have had many things to say to her, and she has had many things to tell you. I am sure that you will not be one subject to another, and that you will know when to stop. And you will be constantly in each other's arms, and I am sure you will be close by your side and near you a moment permit you to be out of her sight, and could scarcely wait for looking at you. & Fannie is much better today. Sissy & Ellen had colds. I have given Ellen a dose of oil & a dose of salts. I hope they will be better tomorrow. I have preached a sermon this afternoon in the hall of the Med. students. Ellis & Gregg Monday morning. — The children, all appear to be quite bright this morning. Ellen & Sissy are much better

Ann Arbor Jan 26th 1853

My own dear wife

It is now nine o'clock, the children are in bed and, I believe, sound asleep; excepting Malcolm who is taking a sleigh ride. Sissy is at least to be much better this evening, and does not cough any. She is sleeping in the crib. Eddie & Fannie are in my bed. Sam was quite sickful to day and required all my attention until about 4 o'clock when he fell asleep. He slept about an hour & a half, & then woke up in a very good humor. I have just put him to bed. — One of the children missed school today. — I have been thus particular knowing that you felt some anxiety about the little ones when you left this morning. — The District Schools have suspended for a week on account of the small pox. I fear you had tedious ride to

on account of the deep snow & the cold. I will be very anxious to learn how you fared by the way. I was glad when Malcolm mentioned to me this morning that Mr. Hall was on the stage. I gave him rather a singular introduction to you, never having seen him, & from the outside of the stage. You may call it a stage coach introduction & let it pass. If he returns here on Monday I can learn how you got along as far as Adrian.

There was a N.Y. Tribune sent to you this morning from N.Y. containing all of Doesticks letters. — You did not take my knife, so when you miss it do not think you have lost it.

Sun 27th 8 o'clock P.M. The children are lying quietly. I have just been up in my room to see how Lizzie, Eddie & Sammie were, and found them very comfortable. I read them newly shod all round to day. The three boys with boots, Ellen & Lizzie with good high shoes. Martin came and put his arm around my neck & kissed me after all the rest had gone out.

I asked him what that kiss was for. He said for the boots I had given him. — I have been round to day settling up & find there will be but little left for rent. — Doesticks' Sentimentation was published to day. I would send it, but suppose you will see it in Cincinnati. — Two letters came for you this evening. I opened Sophies to see where it was from as there was no postmark, & finding it was from her took the liberty of reading it. I opened Edgys to see if all were well at Dayton & also to enclose to you.

I mention it, because you know I do not like to open your letters, although you are always willing that I should. — I am alone this evening. The children were tired and all went to bed as soon as it became dark. I should have gone to witness the performance of a Wizard. The sleigh bells are jingling constantly. I am glad I am not a horse. — I was asked to day what I would charge to copy the plan of the Dist. Sch. house. I offered to do the work for \$20. or do the work & furnish the paper for \$30. I think they will accept my offer. I would not do it for that if I had any thing else

Good bye. May God bless you - May darling children. Love our devoted
mother. M. J. O. and L. C.



With some Prospects appear to brighten somewhat. I trust that out of some of the projects that have been in view, I will find something to do this winter. If all else fail, something I trust will be provided for me; I will look about to see what it may be. The idea of a means of my genius, standing Quaker is preposterous.

Just before we quit work this morning, I had a few rows drawn with a plow to carry off the water in case of rain, for the weather looked somewhat dubious. Others said, it would hardly be necessary for today as it would rain. I answered that I was not anxious for the rain, but wished to be prepared for it. It sprinkled a little as I was on my way home, & while at dinner commenced to rain in earnest. It is well to be prepared I find.

My dear wife, I am very impatient to finish this book. It is too long for me to be separated from you & my dear children. It is now four & a half months since I left home and in that time have been home but two days. I love my family too dearly, to be content to be separated in this manner. — Mr Chase was in Amherst last week & returned night before last bringing my pants, vest. I like the vest very much but the pants look too much like Missouri, & black walnut bark. They will answer till I can do better. I was not pleased when I saw the purchase, but I saw nothing better in A.S.

If the children were not overwhelmed with kisses when you returned home, give them kisses from me. Tell them father loves them dearly. Tell Sam, papa came soon.

Mr Chase did not call at our house & I presume bought on word about the dear children & my great disappointment. I have not had a word from them since I left home.

[Oct. 31, 1855]

my hands, some kind feverish symptoms, somewhat all
an hour or two since I now slightly but I say. I am
not anticipating any thing more than this. I think there
has been a return of the fever, but in this light form, for which
(that is, the lightness) I sh^d be very thankful.

It is a great consolation to me to think that the chil-
dren have their mother to watch over & instruct them to-
day. I had many fears while you were gone, that as you
expected to be absent about ten days, you had not laid
in a sufficient store of provisions & fuel for four weeks.
& that on your return you might find them in a sad
condition. I hope however you found all right and
nothing to distress you.

I hope you will excuse this dismal letter. I intend-
ed to write something cheerful, but find that however
I may commence a paragraph, before it is finished,
the dolefuls are dealt out by wholesale. There is much
reason to be cheerful, for I sincerely trust that before an-
other Sabbath I will be with you & my dear children.
It wd have been a great gratification to me to have put
the finishing touches on the work that I planned & on which
I have been engaged, but these disappointments are
of daily occurrence on this sublunary sphere & I sh^d not
complain of my share. We have blessings that thousands
do not enjoy, & infinitely more than we deserve. We are poor,
but with whom wd we be willing to exchange our poverty
& blessings, for their riches, sorrows, & vexations. Look at our
dear children, with whom wd we exchange? We have
journeyed, "hustling" over a rugged path side by side,
but have been able to cheer each other when we

walked over that distance to-day, & do not feel very strong.

wayward. I know not how I am sufficiently thankful,
for the precious Companion & comforter that was bestowed
upon me. I now consider that I am on the downhill
side of life, and may need your comforting care
more than ever. May God bless & keep you, my precious one.

I have many things to say to my dear children.
Dear little Bunt, how did they prosper when mother
was absent? I fear you found, ^{neglect} written upon
their backs, if not upon their countenances, when you re-
turned. Tell the dear pets, that father thinks of them all
the time, & wants to take each one in his arms & give
him (or her) a hearty squeeze. I ^{do} like to have seen
their happy faces when mother came back. Did it not
compensate you for all your fatigue & anxiety? Kiss
them all for me & do not let them forget me.

It is now near supper time, & I think a cup of
tea will set me up right. It is surely if you & I have
it for me. It has rained steadily all day, without
a moment's intermission. A great deal of water
has fallen. The ground was well soaked & the marshy
full before it commenced, we may look for high waters.
The road from here to Eaton Rapids (20 miles on the route
to Jackson, have been in a horrible condition, for
some weeks past. What may we expect after this?

Good bye, my darling. Take good care of yourself
& the children. I hope to see you in a few days. If
any thing should happen to hinder my coming home this
week, I will try to let you know in time.
Sunday, Nov 12th. I have been taking a general survey of my field of
labors, and have made up my mind that it is best to close up as
speedily as possible, & start for home. You may look for me on Satur-
day, unless I advise you to the contrary.

It is possible that I may be home by Friday. Of one thing you may be assured, I must say,
day I have, & I will be with you as soon as it is in my power. May God bless & keep
you all.

Your own father

Wm. H. Burdett

W. H. Burdett

Reading Nov. 10th 1855. (Saturday)

My dear wife,
I take it for granted that you are home
with the dear children; that you left Cin. on Monday, the
Tuesday at Dayton; reached Monroe & saw our darling Bunt
on Thursday and returned home precious ones on Friday, or
perhaps not till Saturday. I wish that I could have been
home to welcome you, but it was not in my power. Last
week I was very busy. Another week of good weather
which enabled me, I think to close up my work to get
good satisfaction, but this morning was ushered in with
rain & it is now falling steadily. I think now that I shall
a few days, if the weather permit, in putting the work in
such a shape that it can safely lie over till spring, &
then can be finished by any one. Two more days of
good, or rather fair weather would have helped me much.
I do not complain however, for Heavenly orders all things
well. It is possible that I may return home sooner on
account of this rain; perhaps by Saturday next.

Now anxiously I shall wait for your next letter, that
I may learn how you found those dear children. I
have felt a painful anxiety for them ever since you
left them. I trust you may never again be compelled
to leave them when I am absent. — In my last letter
I mentioned a slight shake of fever; it has not been re-
peated, and my health now appears to be good, but
I do not feel quite as strong, as in the spring; not so well
able to endure fatigue. This of course should be expected as
the result of your attacks of fever, however slight the attacks



Mr. May for the interval, to leave this week & away, I finally feel able to walk two miles.

very much been. I understand the Presbyterian Society at
Sunderland have elected the Rev. Mr. Stanley of Newcastle to be their
pastor. I sincerely hope he may be man of a different stamp
from Mr. C. but quite so learned. One that may take it for granted
that in spite of his congregation believe in the Scriptures; that
all are not infidels, I hope too, when he looks around upon
the congregation that he may notice that they are not all a-
whites, & not students of the University; that some are children
who cannot well digest objective, & subjective. Mr. C. at
times, did certainly speak to his hearers, in an unknown
tongue. He was a popular preacher because he was very
metaphysical. Not to appreciate him, betrayed one's ig-
norance, & all were compelled to applaud. At the same
time none mourned his departure. All felt that a heavy
burden was removed, the burden of hearing & applauding
what they did not comprehend.

It is very lonesome in my little room to-day, &
there may be some little excuse for homesickness.
The prospect from my window is not very cheering,
for the clouds look dark & lowering; the rain falls stead-
ily; all the signs of animation without, are a few
turdies with drooping feathers, and a disconsolate
appearance. Within doors, all is quiet, except an occa-
sional footstep in the hall. One might readily suppose
that the inmates, looking upon it as a day of rest, had
retired, and resigned themselves to sleep. It is pro-
bable that conspiracy might be found in the bar room;
a heterogeneous mass, not congenial to my taste. To add
to my comfortable feelings, this is the day for my fever to
return, and since noon my head has felt badly, &

Can't show yet 1886

Dear Charlotte

Enclosed is fifty dollars
for Mother's heart and one from
him to May 12/1886. Please ac-
knowledge the receipt of it. You
will oblige me by reminding me of
the money as fast as it becomes
due for I am so nervous that I
shall not remember it without some
one reminds me of it. We are
all pretty well. Mary suffers occasion-
ally with headaches but she will
soon get to her feet and give you
all the news. Mrs. Clarke has gone
to Sandy. I am glad to hear that
Mr. Van Buren is at work and in
Chicago where he is pleasantly
settled. Chicago is a great place.
I hope it will not have a fall
the Speculation there are enough to
sink any ordinary city. Remember
me to all

Yours de
J. D. L. L. L.



Dear Charlotte

Dear ^{to} May 4th 1855

Dear Charlotte

I received yours of the 30th inst. yesterday and send you a receipt for which you write. You can send me a receipt through.

We are all pretty well. Mary is not here as well as the others have been. She is exceedingly nervous. Thos. pretty well. We have had all the Sandhams here. They left about a week ago. Mrs. Clarke was sick while here and I fear left too soon. ~~The mother informed me she was~~ again attacked at the month on the May home. She had a very severe pain in her side. The baby was also quite sick this. but I presume that both of them are better than they were in as much as I have not since heard from them. Mr. Mellor said that he would write to me again from the month. & I have not heard from ^{him} ~~which~~ I should probably have heard all this time they not all much recovered. The children are all pretty well, indeed quite well and are enjoying the Spring weather and he are all well. Mary needs to be remembered to be remembered to be remembered. I am ever & all

the children, in which respect I join
your truly. J. D. Lincoln

Laurelburg, Oct. 28th 1855. Sabbath Morning

My own darling wife

I wish you had told me in your letter from Chicago to direct to the care of some one at Chicago, and I wish you had done so, but when I rec^d your letter it was too late to write to Madison. When I rec^d your letter I also rec^d one from Everett to look at Janesville Wisconsin, wishing me to apply for a situation in the Chicago & Janesville R.R. I answered his letter immediately & did as he wished; & also informed him that you were at Winnebago, & might pass through Janesville on your return, if you had not already. I hope you saw him. He would have been in an ecstasy, I know. I was quite sick, from another attack of fever, when I received your letter, & this; & it was with difficulty that I c^d write him an intelligible answer. My health is now very good, but I am more impatient than ever to return home; perhaps might as well own up; homesick. I have not heard a word from the darling children since you left; which has been a sore trial to me; & I have felt no little anxiety about you, for this journey was quite a serious undertaking for you but one which filial duty demanded of you. Was glad that you c^d go, but regretted that circumstances required it, just now I trust, that our ever merciful & kind Heavenly Father who looks over his children has shielded you from harm, & will restore you to our dear children, & that you will find them well & happy. Love & long

My dear wife I have not seen Mrs. Dean for the last 10 days. I understand that she is in the street. Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday I was sick. She has been a little better, but I am generally lame what I get tired when coming down the stairs.

Children are near about four my thoughts, & my
prayers have been for your welfare & happiness.
My love for you all is intense. Sometimes I wish I may
love you too much. — Mr Chase is now in New Haven,
& I hope he will return soon. I bring a good account of
my children. I wish you might be there before he
leaves, but as my wish is that he will return im-
mediately I fear that both wishes cannot be gratified.
I hope that by this time you are in Cincinnati,
& that this may meet you in New Haven on Tuesday,
or soon after. —

Afternoon. Mr & Mrs Butler are keeping house; commenced
last week. I took Minnie with them to day. Mrs Platt took
dinner there also. This is the first time, I believe that she
has been out since her confinement. She looks very
well. Mr & Mrs C. appear to be very happy.

This is a beautiful day, & Oh that I were at home
with the dear children. I often regret the Sabbaths I
have missed at home. I have devoted the time
that I should to the religious instruction of the chil-
dren, but will try to do better hereafter if my life is
spared. We must manifest our love for the children
by bringing them up in the fear of the Lord. — I
suppose Ellen is delighted with the idea of spend-
ing the winter in Cincinnati. Isaac is so much
attached to Seymour that he would soon want
to get back to New Haven.

I hope I shall have taken a good long walk
with you & the children this afternoon. It has
been one of our beautiful fall days. I am

that fills the heart with love to God & man, and
all the works of creation that I look with hope & peace.
It is such a Sabbath ~~day~~ I can always love.

How do you suppose our dear boy spends his
Sabbaths in the Western wild? I often think of it.
He has his Bible with him. Do you think he makes
his compromise, & stays? We must pray for him, my
dear wife, in the morning & all day; we must pray
for him at evening & all night. Poor boy, he never
had the stability & decision of character that his
sister has. Malcolme never had the good principles
that Anna has. Anna wd never do what she feared
might be wrong. Malcolme was low, easily led into
temptation, and was ever ready to excuse himself.
I always trust Anna. Malcolme wd sometimes
deceive us. It pains me to think of; much more
to say it. May God bless both the dear children
may he give them new hearts and make them
his own dear children. I pray that this trip
may prove a blessing & not a curse to him.

You must be prepared to tell me a long story
when you come home. I will be a ready listen-
er, I will have many questions to ask, about
Cincinnati, & Beache Orchard, & his cousin, &
your whole journey. I hope you made it con-
venient to call on Anna on your way back,
& that you can give me a good account of her. I
must expect a letter soon in answer to the one I wrote
to Sophie & her on Monday enclosing \$20. I hope
there will be a good school at New Haven next spring.

Further to the left of the stage - off yesterday you
will see a number of the members of the Michigan Female
College, at this place and believe some of the small
young ladies wear pantaloons, and wear their hair
cut short, and look very much like small boys.
I hope the institution may prosper, but fear that
Miss Rogers & Miss Clapp have been rather sanguine
in their expectations about bringing 60 young ladies
from a distance. It will be some time I fear
before that number can reach here with the present
state of the roads. They have calculated much on
their individual popularity as teachers.

I expect now to come home next week, and
hope I will not be disappointed. It is a long
time that I have been separated from my family,
and the separation has been a sore trial to me.
The pleasure however of doing something for their
support has done much to counteract the pain.
Although it could not remove it entirely. It has
changed it from gout to rheumatism. If I sh^d go as
far as Janesville, Wisconsin, it so require stronger
doses to keep it at rheumatism. What I have
earned here has not been enough to pay the daily
expenses of my family. As far off as Wisconsin, I
sh^d want, not only enough, but something toward, li-
quidating some old debts. It will be a great relief
to us to owe nothing but love to our neighbors. We will
have a thanksgiving when that day comes, not forget-
ting to be thankful always for the many, many blessings
we have daily reaped upon us, and which we by no
(See first page)



Mrs. Charlotte D. Van Cleave

Ann Arbor.

Michigan

Saturday Sabbath afternoon Nov. 4th 1865.
My own precious wife.

This is another of those glorious, bright Sabbath days, that make me regularly homesick. Instead of enjoying this delightful day with you & my dear children; here I am in my little 7 x 9 retreat, No 17 Benton House, Lansing, Michigan, with no one but the subscriber for my Companion; and I assure you he is but dull company. It would have been some comfort, if I had received a letter from you this morning, informing me of your advent at Ann Arbor. I have not heard one word from the children since you left home, and you may judge that I am a little impatient, if not somewhat anxious. I also wish to learn of your safe arrival; that you have accomplished your journey without accident; that you have returned well & in good spirits; & that you found all right at home.

My health is now very good. Went to church this morning; saw Mrs Vanforth there, who was well, & I thought she might be ready to return with me to Ann Arbor, when I should go, which I told her I expected to be about the middle of next week. It is my intention to work hard to get away by that time, for I am very impatient to see you. You are ever present to my thoughts my darling; and I am very lonely without you. And I want to see my dear children very much. Tell them that father loves them very much; Ezzie with her sweet blue eyes; Seymour with his dear sober face, our pensive boy; Mortie, our precious little scamp, with his frank, open countenance & Sam the little pet, not forgetting, quiet little Homer, dear

Children, I want to see them all. When I consider that this
separation is necessary, that it is my duty to work in
this way for our daily bread, I think that poverty is
a great evil, it is attended with many & great in-
conveniences. — I expect to have a great treat in listening
to your account of what you have seen & learned since
you left home. I wish to hear about the changes that have
taken place at Winnipeg. I expect it has a dilapidated
appearance at the Fort & around it. The old oaks no
doubt have been cut down for firewood. The buildings
are going to decay, & need their spring coat of white wash.
Every thing around it, shows that it is no longer tenanted
by soldiers. Portage City I suppose is built on the high
ground on the Wisconsin River, where in our days of
gathering flowers on that beautiful stream, there was
wrought of civilization but an Indian traders log Cabin.
But we will talk of these things I hope next week. — In the
mean time, that since I commenced writing, I notice
that it begins to look a little hazy, about the horizon, in
the West. I hope it does not portend rain. You little
know how closely I watch the weather. Every rainy day
puts back my work, and keeps me so much longer from
my precious wife & children. — Evening is becoming
to me a very still place. My thoughts are no longer here.
I expect you have oversteered your leave of absence. You
said you would be gone about ten days. In my letter to
Cincinnati I think I calculated that you would be home
before Wednesday the 3rd of November. My impression is, that
I was about right. If you did not reach home before, I
hope you arrived safely yesterday; that the President con-
ducted himself with propriety during the journey; & that you

found, on your return, all the children well, & the house
in order. Of local news, I have none to communicate
excepting that Mrs Butler's baby has been quite sick for
a few days. For some time they had but little hopes of
its recovery. It is thought to be somewhat better now, al-
though it is by no means considered out of danger.

Mrs Butler is well & looks as thriving as usual. I believe
I have now spoken of all your female acquaint-
ances here, and I may add of mine. My ac-
quaintance with two or three others is but slight.
The Female College has over forty scholars, small &
large, male & female. They have made a very fair
beginning, & it is said & I have more young ladies from a
distance, if boarding places & the found for them, I hope
they may do well. — The Cin. & Mac. Rail Road, is
again before the people, & they are raising subscriptions
to the stock, to organize the Company.

To prove to you that I earnestly expect to return
home, next week, I will mention that, I have com-
menced packing my trunk; have told my washer-
woman she need not send again for my clothes; &
have returned most of the books I have borrowed, from
time to time since I have been here. Tell Sammy, Papa
hopes to come home very soon. Now I shall have to take the
railing in my arms to night. — I have not heard from
Anna since you left home. I suppose the dear child
has not much time to write. I shall like to learn whether
the \$20. I sent Sophie arrived safely. I promised to
make another remittance of the same amount in the
10th of this month. I fear it will be difficult for me to
do so. I must do the best I can.

[Nov. 4, 1855]

Have you had any opportunity today to instruct
our dear children. When the Sabbath comes I often think
how negligent I have been in instructing the children
in the Scriptures. I am sorry they do not attend more
to their singing. All the children are blessed with good
voices & they sh^d cultivate them. What do you suppose our
dear Malcolm is doing now? How do you think he spends
his Sabbaths? May God have mercy on him & save him.
How hard I try to pray for that dear child! That he
may be brought to see that he is a sinner before God; that
he may repent of his sins & look to Jesus for Salvation;
that he may be kept from sinning & again restored to us.
I try to pray for you all my dear wife, I never forget you
while you were on your journey. But my precious one,
my prayers are not as they sh^d be. I feel that I do not
love & honor my God & Savior as I sh^d. Daily there are many,
many sins committed, many sins to mourn over. Remem-
ber me in your prayers & pray with & for our dear chil-
dren. — Tell Sippie, that Gathen loves her dearly, I hope
she is a good girl & that she takes good care of the children
the little brothers. Tell Seymour & Morice, that they must
be good children and study hard, and help you all they
can, & take good care of Eddie & Sammy. Tell all the dear
children that they are very precious to me & that I hope to see
them soon. When I give myself up to think about my
dear wife & children I feel so impatient that I wish to
start off directly, leaving work & every thing.

Good bye my dear wife. May God bless you
& keep you. May he bless & keep the precious children
those who are with & those who are far from us. May he
soon restore us to each other. Your own loving
husband M. J. W. C. Lane.

Chicago Sat. afternoon Aug 1st 1856.

My dear darling wife,

Shiff came upon me yesterday morning before breakfast, very unexpectedly. I was very glad to see him, & to learn from our eye witness that you & Anna & my little ones at home were all well. He was here about an hour. Gave him Malabar Skates & saw him safely on his way for St Paul. When I returned from the Depot, went to the office & found a sweet letter from the loveliest of women; In the afternoon again went to the office & found a letter from one of the loveliest of daughters, from our own dear Anna, giving an account of her visit to New Haven & return to Brooklyn. I regret my previous one, that I so expressed myself in some of my past letters, as to lead you to think that I was seriously sick. I had an inflammation of the liver, that troubled me somewhat, bodily & perhaps mentally. It was painful to walk, painful to lie down, painful to take a long breath. At the same time I did walk, lie down & take long breaths. I may say I was decidedly uncomfortable, but not seriously sick. (Toll my little Sam that a very little half starved mouse just crossed the window sill by which I am sitting and got upon my table and was gone behind the books; now he is out again and nibbling a piece of cracker I have

put there for him. Poor little fellow he looks quite feeble. Now is going off. I hope he has gone out of the line down to his home, if he has any. I fear his mother is very poor, and that he does not get much to eat. Perhaps he has lost his mother, he looked very sad, I feel sorry for him. I feel very well now, bodily & mentally; bodily, because I am strong again & free from pain; mentally, because I have so many blessings to be thankful for; good health & good news from my wife & dear children. I indulged in another piece of extravagance yesterday; went into the tract & depository, took up Pickens' text on Prayer with reading a little in it & was so pleased with it that I purchased it. Cost 45 cents. If I finish reading it before Ellen returns I will send it to you. It is not probable however that I shall, for I read some parts several times, as I did when reading the Book in the Lot, which I am also reading the second time, and, if possible am more pleased with it than I was the first time. Pickens' text is one of those lovely, holy men like Doddridge, Baxter, Jay and many other worthies, that wants to take you by the hand & lead you close up to your Savior and have you live by Him, with Him, for Him. Oh my dear wife, if we & live thus, how tripling the joys & trials of this world will appear. Ever for our Heavenly Father's gratitude for his many mercies, let our own many blessings not so fill our hearts, that care & anxiety & sorrow (excepting sorrow for sin) will be crowded out, there will be no room for

them. — Evening. We had a delightful rain this afternoon. I thought of my little Sequan thinking along in the rain after the rain. It is not probable that it rained at that season, this afternoon, but the darling child must be obliged to go in the rain for her baptism. I wish I could go for him. Oh that I could spend my whole life with you, my dear wife, & with my dear children. Perhaps this blessing may be in store for us. Let us be earnest in our prayer to our Heavenly Father, submitting all to his holy will. He will hear our prayers and bestow them though He may not answer them in the way we may expect, but in His own good way & in His own good time. — I am glad you have had an opportunity of becoming acquainted with Gates. I knew you so like him much. You know he is a particular favorite of ours. — Do not tell Ellen, my little pet woman is dead. Last noon I felt something crawling up the leg of my pants & supposing it to be a fly, I gave it a blow, & looking down on the floor saw the poor little creature had met with a violent death. Alas, & by my own hand. Alas, alas! — Good night darling, I must retire to rest and read my Bible & Pickens' text. — The mosquitoes have been very troublesome of late and when they rest considerably. I sing the songs of a goodly number before retiring, but they would seem to hear at night like hungry wolves, not being out of the blood & sleep.

Monday. Two weeks of idleness, & since disengaging to a few more. I do not know of any prospect of work at pre-

Sent. Am somewhat disposed to think Perine's
may have been mistaken in the amount of salary
ing to be done here, and even of the opinion that a
few of the here yeas here do more than make a bare
subsistence, and that I cannot find constant en-
ployment here. At present a great many people
are said to be out of these & business many in con-
sequence a little dull. I will hold on for a lit-
tle longer, I see what may be done. At present I do
not see much of a fortune ahead or much prospect
of being able to support my family here.

I may look out for Mr. Melrose now, but his time will
run up; he may come along at any hour. If he brings
any encouraging news from St. Paul I shall be strong-
ly tempted to go there. Do not be alarmed however,
I have no idea of starting before I get your yesterday's
letter which will be here tomorrow morning. I may
have them wait a few days. But I do feel, my dear
wife, as if I were old enough to be settled in some
business with my family around me. It is hard, very
hard for me to live thus. I must confess that I am
just a little homesick. Although it is painful to be
separated thus from my family I submit to it as
long as I feel assured that I was earning a com-
fortable support for them, but indeed I am doing nothing
it is hard. — Good bye my precious wife. Kiss
my darling children for me. I thank my God that
he sends me such good news from my home constantly.
May he take care of you all pray your ever loving husband,
H. A. C. C. C.

Chicago, Tuesday night Ap. 8. 1856

My own darling wife

I have just commenced house-keeping. I take my meals at a boarding house & Dr. Andrews has kindly offered me the privilege of using his office in which is ^{a house} made to be used for a bed on which I am to sleep. To night I am to make my first trial of it, & in the morning I can tell whether or not, it was successful. — To day it has been quite warm & Spring like, so much so that my overcoat proved uncomfortable & I was obliged to take it off, & I find it quite comfortable sitting here in the Doctor's office, without fire. I cannot say however, that it is very pleasant here, for my darling wife & precious children are far away. How long we are to be thus separated, God only knows. This much I know, the separation to me is a painful one, & I know that precious one is sorrowing for me. This morning I received your precious letter, written on Sunday, finished &

mailed yesterday morning. You were sad
darling, and I reproach myself for writing
in such a strain as to make you feel sad.
You have troubles enough & I sh^d not add
to those grey hairs. We must cast our cares &
troubles, and disappointments upon our Hea-
venly Father, He will never forsake us. He will
carry our sorrows. All is now dark, but he
will make our path light as day. He
has taken care of us heretofore and has ne-
ver forsaken us, but we have forsaken him
and he chastises us to bring us nearer to him.
& as he leads us through these dark paths
we are constrained to cling more closely to
him, & our own dear children, in a dark
forest we cling more closely, but I w^d not let us
go from them. It is indeed a precious consolation
amid all our sorrows that we have a kind
Heavenly Father, who is God over all, who pities his
children & does not let even a sparrow fall with-
out his knowledge, & we are of more worth than
many sparrows. Let us then continue to trust in
him, & whether in adversity or prosperity, all will

be well. Although I saw from your letter, that
my letter that you rec^d on Saturday, had made
you sad, still your sweet letter comforted me
as you intended it sh^d. I lose, precious wife, bowed
down with grief & yet striving to comfort your
poor husband. May God bless you my own
darling friend you for all your love and kind-
ness to me. Good night, I am going now to
try my sleeping apparatus, I cannot digni-
fy with the name of bed, & in the morning I
calculate to let you ^{know} what are its merits.

Wednesday Apr. 9th Noon. - Cannot brag much on
my bed. Slept soundly a few hours; woke up;
heard the clock strike 3; bones ached; turned
over; you were not there; lonesome; fell into
a dose; soon awoke again; did not feel ex-
actly comfortable, cat-napped till day light
got up, washed & dressed. Prayed for my dear
wife & children, read my Bible & then went
to breakfast. Am not acquainted with a
soul where I board, but I manage to form
an acquaintance with a portion of the
provisions, so I get along very well.

I wish you to understand distinctly
that I am in very good spirits, I trust
that I may soon find business.

The house I find here is, five miles from
here, on the Lake shore, of which I have
spoken before. Can be rented for
\$200. At Chicago prices it is cheap rent.
I wish I were able to send for you im-
mediately, for I do not admire this more
risky life. I have never seen the place
or house I know nothing but what I have
heard. I am going out this afternoon
with John W. if he is there, to see some
men on business matters. If I learn any
thing of interest you will hear from me
soon. Dr Andrews has just mentioned to
me that he thinks he can get some busi-
ness for me to do, but is not certain.

These little helps, are drops of encourage-
ment. I do not despair; Our God will
take care of us. I have looked to him &
will continue to look.

Mr. Williams told me this morning

Am Arbor July 8th 1836.

dear Matt

It is now but a little more than a week since I returned on a visit to my my family, & I am already packing up to start for Chicago again, calculating to leave this evening. It wd take but little saying to persuade me to remain a few days longer, for a week appears to me a short visit after an absence from home of more than three months. These three months have brought some changes in my little ones. They all appear to have grown taller & if possible handsomer. I miss the absent ones,

Suppose Anna is now in New Haven & trust she will have a very pleasant visit there with her sister. Malcolm is at Otter Tail Lake, the head waters of the Red River of the North, left in charge of his uncle's property. He is a very regular Correspondent, that is, never writes. He is well pleased with Savage life. Otter-Tail Lake is about 225 miles (North Westward) I believe of St Paul. Malcolm Clark has brought his family there and is calculating to make a large stock farm. Has about 100 horses & some cattle. Says it is a beautiful country. He intends to go up to the Blackfoot country next spring & wishes to have some one at his farm during his absence in whom he can have confidence to superintend affairs, take charge of his property, stock, family &c. &c. I shoot, kill, way lay & destroy all

the Sioux, who may come near his settlement to steal horses, & cattle. I had heard that Cliff was intending to take a whaling voyage for his health & spoke of him to Mr Clark, recommending him as one whom, I thought wd suit him, & who might also be pleased with the idea of spending 6, 8, 10 or 12 months in the woods, in the land of the Sioux Indians, in the land of the hereafter. Then he may chase the Buffalo, or be chased by the buffalo, and be tossed on the horns of a buffalo, which will be quite as romantic as being swallowed by a whale. Mr Clark wd pay him well for his services, but I cant afford to pay as much as he c^d make in the printing office, I suppose.

I think Cliff wd like the change, & that it wd be a little sooner time good for his health. Malcolms health has improved very much. He is now as hardy as a red skin, and has become an inveterate Hunter. Mr Clark intends to come down here again in the next winter, and Cliff may have time to think of this, in the mean time he might write to Mrs Vanblen & let her know what he thinks of it & she can send word to her brother. When Mr Clark comes down next winter he may probably visit New York. I suppose our boy will remain there a year or two, & in the mean time make us a visit as he is but 8 or 10 days journey from us. If Cliff sh^d go, he must take notes & write a book.

I am glad to learn that you are prospering; have learned your letters and got into your a b

abcs; was in hopes that you wd make us a visit sometime when I c^d be at home. When I can make another visit home is uncertain. I am very anxious to take my family to Chicago but that of course depends on my success there. It is an expensive place to live, & I do not feel disposed to take them there on an uncertainty.

I sh^d like much to hear from you when you have leisure. Direct to Chicago, care of John Woodbridge.

Remember me to the household

With sincere regard
Yours J. P. Vanblen

My dear boys,
I write a few lines to say that I am yet in the land of the living and that, when I am again all alone, as I shall be when my husband leaves, I will write some letters to Brooklyn and elsewhere. Ask Cliff to tell me what I shall say to you when she comes back to our Arbor, in reply to the question she asked me when she passed through here. I suppose Anna is in New Haven now. Do you miss her? If you do, think of me, and imagine how I get along without her. How long will she be absent? I sh^d upon her next letter will

inform me. I am almost afraid from
a late letter from Ellen that there
is considerable uncertainty about
Mrs. Mellen's bringing her north this
summer. However a few days will
decide the matter for my sister
will soon return and tell us all
about it. It is hard for me to part with
my husband so soon again, but I can
live on the hope that I will not al-
ways be so. I shall try to write to you,
Ed. and Marnie, this week. I am however
very busy getting Horace ready for his
visit to his Mother & Sister.

Brother will visit New York this year
as he somewhat anticipates. I trust
you will all be glad to see him and
assure he would enjoy a visit with
you all very much. He is a noble hearted
man and one whom you would esteem
highly. Should you become acquainted
with him - I am the only girl since
she was a very scattering letter, has it done
her any good? I am anxious to know
this. So do not fail to answer me.
Mrs. Kingsley has sold his house to Mr. Seabury
a gentleman from New Haven. He is going to
attack the old barn and the peatline ~~charm~~?
of the old place will soon be with - Much love
to all, a heart full for you. W. W. W. W.