

Horatio P. Van Cleve and family papers.

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Sept

Darling Mother,

Sophie has gone with Miss Mary Cory a (young lady that Sophie has known for some time in Lima, and who came last evening) to prayer meeting. I rec'd your dear sweet letter last evening just after I came home with Sophie from the depot (we went down to meet Miss Cory,) I was so glad to get it and to learn that you were all well. I am afraid that I made you feel badly Mother dear when I said I was homesick, do not feel badly any more darling, for I am very contented and quite happy. Of course dear Mother I want to see you very, very much indeed but it is very pleasant and I have plenty to do, but not too much, and I think I try to do right for your sake and Mort's and dear father's too. I do want to see you and dear Mort and father so much. Who do you think called here the other morning? Dannials he called with

I wish you would send my old pattern. I wish I could send you a sample of the silk all the Children for me, dear Lizzie, I wish you would send me some. I shall be very happy [illegible] when I write I will write next week. I live near Mrs Danforth. I may tell Mary to write Mrs. Boyd said that you told her in your letter that I was to write me a week. Good bye my darling. I love you the same as ever. Kiss Mort for me. Your little girl Nannie. write to Mrs. Edwards. I suppose I can.

Miss Wing. She asked after all of you and Mat and wished to be remembered to you. She wanted Miss Wing, Sophie, and me to ride over to Toledo some Friday and come back on Monday but I don't know as we shall ever do it. We have commenced taking lessons in the Gymnasium. I like the lessons very much I think it will do us a great deal of good. I am getting along very nicely, I think, in my studies I like Algebra very much I like all the teachers too. I practise 1 hours and a half, every day perhaps that will be enough if I practise more it will be more expense. And I want to be as little expense as possible. This month's the book I had to get and my Gymnasium dress, I suppose will all be charged in my bill. I have not got the dress yet but Mrs. Boyd will get a piece of nankeen (that is what the dresses are to be made of) & she will get it as cheap as possible, it is only a shilling a yard at the store. it will not take more than six or seven yards for a dress I think. I will write and tell you how they look when they are made.

You ask me in your letter if I roomed with Sophie, I do. There are two beds in the bedroom Sophie and I sleep in one and Miss Cory in another. Then we have a very pleasant room (besides the bedroom) that has a glass door with blinds, like a window, you know, that opens onto a very nice low balcony in front, it is very pleasant I wish you were sitting in the barrel chair near the stove, now, I would not be sitting but on the floor beside you. All I saw of Kate was Saturday when I called in the evening and on Sunday afternoon she called there. She left town early the next morning I suppose she got to Ypsilanti Monday night. She did not say when she would go to Ann Arbor but I believe she spoke of going to see you. she said she would be back here in about ten days that will be in about four or five days now. Carrie Fitch sends a great deal of love to you and Sophie too. She

says she will try to write to you soon but she has been very busy. I got a dear good letter from dear Mort, a few days ago (Wednesday I believe) ain't he good? oh! Mother I do love him so much I hope I shall get another letter soon. Sophie asked Miss Lewis, (a very sweet young lady, and my teacher in Algebra and Arithmatic) how I was getting along and she said beautifully. I say this not that I am vain but I want to make you happy. Good night darling

Saturday morning

Mother darling, I am going to write to dear Mort after breakfast I would like to write to dear father but I shall not have time give him my dear love when you write I want so to see him. please darling Mother do not work hard and get sick and if it hurts you to write get some one to write for you I would be perfectly contented if you would say that you will send for me when you are sick whether you are very sick or not. Sophie and I are going to judge Wings to tea this after noon. I want to see you all very much but I do not get home sick. I hope Auntie will take Ellen this winter and I hope dear Grandma will stay with you and Betty will come back.

would go for I think it would be a very good thing for him.

I think I shall go to N.H. next Friday. I shall take the boat which leaves N.Y. at three P.M. and gets to N.H. at night. Mort is going to find out which is the best Hotel in the City and then write to have them [illegible] me there for you [illegible] I never saw any of them and might miss them were they to go to the boat. the fare there is one dol I shall go to morrow if it is pleasant and have my likeness taken for you. I was going this evening but it rained. Ed Welles thinks of going to A.A. this week [illegible] Good bye now dear mother I will write to you as soon as I get to N.H.

Give my love to Father if he is at home yet uncle Lizzie Seymour Horace Mort [illegible] dear baby & Ellen when you see her I am glad uncle likes me I should love to visit him and my horse too. Your own Nannie

Brooklyn July [illegible]

My precious mother

I have only time to write a few lines to day as I am very busy getting ready to go to N.H. I rec'd letters from you & dear father on Saturday. I [illegible] sent me $15 part of which I tried very hard to make mort [illegible] but he would not what shall I do with him? but I shall not use more than I can help. Mort rec'd your letter last Thursday, I felt very badly that dear Malcolm did not come home & had a hard cry about it, silly child that I am, but I could not help it I have thought all this winter when I have felt so badly about his being so far from us that he would surely come in the summer and then to be disappointed.

I wish [illegible] Malcolm [illegible] gold fish [illegible] I have [illegible] lovely gold fish they are the [illegible] little angel

I [illegible] father [illegible] at home tell him I [illegible] him very very much for the [illegible] me [illegible] most would send much love to all but he is not at home

God bless you

But it is, I suppose, all for the best he is so well, is doing so well, and is happy. and besides all that he is much nearer than he was before, but I want to know about it, can we hear from him often now? I hope so. Oh! he must come down in the fall, every one thinks he is doing finely, so do I, and we ought to be very thinkful, and I am. but I should love so to see [illegible] never mind — I feel much better about it than I did. I think though he might have written me two or three lines, but never mind he thought I was at home. I am sorry Horace is going a way I shall miss him much when I get home, tell him not to forget every thing, and say one he is a dear good little boy, and seems more like a brother than a cousin — what will Ellen and the children do without him and you [illegible] Seymour I expect will cry his bright blue eyes out tell him not to spoil them, for I love them myself — I think too that Horace will miss Seymour some. I thank you darling mother for the collar & vail you sent to N. H. for me, I know I shall like them & nothing could please me better. but dear mother you are too good to me, too good. God will bless you I know he will. Sarah Gay has been quite sick for a week she was going down slaves a week ago and when nearly town grew faint and fell — struck her head and fainted away she is much better now. I like her very much indeed. I have taken care of her a little, but, Cliff has done the most of that. I should not wonder if Cliff would go home with uncle Malcolm, but he wants to hear more about it first. I wish he

Brooklyn April 23d/56.

My precious Mother

I have written to Father and you may read the letter if you can and then send it to him with one of your letters. When I commence going to school I shall try to keep a journal. I am making my pink sack Mrs. Thomson cut it for me. It will be very pretty and I hope to finish it to day. Mark is very busy all the time he hopes to get through studying by next May then he will practise. Some one will read to him while he writes. he is very persevering indeed. he says after we are married he wants me to learn it and then if I can write as well as you do. I shall be of great use to him as I can copy what he writes. I shall practise writing and try to be of some use to him. I have taken a very pretty thing of Mrs. Sherriff's it is "Love in Many" there are six pieces called "Sounds of Love" and this is one. I have not taken all of it yet. he makes me practise my studies too

I suppose you will get the money from Cincinnati next week. I shall be glad to have a little for after I send this letter I shall have one cent, and the three cent piece Sey mour sent which I shall not part with. I would not care if it was not for postage stamps for I can get along without other things, and I do not like to ask Mort for money though I shall ask him for a stamp if I can't do any other way when I write next week don't be worried, and think I will suffer no danger. I think my pink basque will be very pretty to wear with my green De Laine skirt dont you? Mort will surely write to you soon he sends love. Mrs. Thomson called on Lizzie Williams when Cora was here she spoke of you and sent her love to you. When I keep a journal, I will send it to you and when you read it, if you like you can send it to Father, when you write sometimes, so that he can know what I am doing too. I shall try to send it off every Saturday morning, and then if I can I will try to write to some of you one day in the middle of the week though I shall be very busy and you must not think if my letters are not very long, some times, it is because I love you any the less. but I know dear Mother you will never think that. Oh! if your dear arms were moving my neck and my foolish little head on you bossom, where it is more at home than any where else I should be so happy. for dear Mother though I love dear Mort better than all the world, there is no place like your dear breast, it always smells so sweet and is so warm. Oh! Mother, I am over head and ears in love with you. I think you are the most beautiful woman in the world, I am in sober earnest. you may just as Lizzie and Father if you aint beautiful and you will find I tell the truth. I am glad to hear that Mr. Reid is in Cincinnati and has forgotten all, if there ever was any thing but I never thought he would feel as badly as Auntie said.

But my precious Mother I must say good bye though, I do not want to. for I take a lesson to Morrow and I have a great deal to practise before hand. Do not feel badly that this is so short and so poorly written. I suppose Morts letter has reached you by this time. Good bye dear Mother I love you dearly. do not forget it. Love to all

Your own nannie

Kiss Lizzie, Seymour, Mortie, Sam & Paul and your own dear self a hundred times for me if you cant kiss your self let the children do it for you. Kiss Chick for me

God bless you do not work hard & get sick, now remember take care of your self.

Kisses Your own dear Hannie

Mother Lizzie Seymour Mortie Sam Paul Chick

Mother

New Haven July 11th /56.

My precious Mother.

I rec'd your dear Letter of the 4th yesterday I was of course very glad to get it. I wish I could have been at home to see dear little Paul baptized. the dear child, I know he acted and looked sweetly. You must have had a pleasant visit with father. I wish I could see him, and if Grandma makes you a visit you will not be quite alone. I hope she will stay until I go home, you know the next quarter commences in September and closes in November. Well I think I had better go home in November don't you? as soon as that certainly. I wish I could see you before though. oh! what would I give to see you. I rec'd a letter from dear Mat yesterday, he sent me a letter from you to him, he told me before I came that he would send me all your letters he says he has a raven and calls him Grip, he is quite young and can as yet do nothing but stand on one leg.

but he says he is soon going to take his morals in charge, will teach him to say several sweet little things, which I should not like to repeat, and to whistle Fisher's hornpipe every Sunday morning while the people are going to meeting. He says my Goldfish are getting along finely, and makes a political speech every morning. Pumpkin whistles Yankee Doodle, Boots can stand on his head, and Shirttail is practicing a fancy dance to perform for me as soon as I go home, all of this I of course believe just as much as I believe that Mort can teach Cuip to whistle, he will teach him to sing next. I guess I feel just as you do about Canaries. I think a raven is much more sensible for a pet I guess Mort will get a monkey next he said once he should, or would like to, there is a kind that is very pretty. I think it would be great fun to have one don't you?

Saturday Morning.

It is very pleasant this morning I do not think it is seven o'clock yet. You see I get up a good deal earlier here, than I do when in Brooklyn. Last Wednesday Morning I made up the vail you sent me, it is very nice. I then went with, Julia, Mary Barnett, and Alfie Johnson and Mr Walker to the cabinet, after I had got tired looking around Alfie and I went away, we went down street as I wanted to get some little things; in the afternoon I went to walk with Anna. We walked past Mrs Apthorp's, it is very pleasant there with such splendid Elm trees on each side of the street. I did not go out on Thursday, but yesterday, Julia, Mary, three young gentle men and another young lady, started out to walk, at a little after half past five in the morning, we had a very pleasant walk, and went out on a pond after pond lilys, I never saw so many before, as there were there. We had a basket with some breakfast in, so we did not slave, and we got home before eleven I think in the evening we went out to see a young lady who lives just out of town. We had a very pleasant walk but when I went to bed I found I was unwell

I am afraid I have walked rather too much lately, for I am unwell too soon.

There is to be another piece we to say I don't know yet whether to go or not. I shall call on mrs Henriques soon, perhaps she can tell me about Col. Cutler, there are but two Brewsters in town, one is a young man, I think the other must be your friend. I shall try to find out certainly and call on them.

I am going home next Saturday, there is no piano here so I cannot practise or study and I am very anxious really to do both. I have written to most to meet me at the boat and will send the letter this morning.

Good bye now dear Mother. God bless you. Kiss all the children for me. I love all my cousins very much.

Don't feel lonely.

Your own little Nannie

I am very happy here but I have really good reasons for going home next week so don't think me a baby

Your own little girl

Monroe Dec 8th 1855.

My precious mother,

I have just finished a letter to dear Mort. I got a short letter from him this morning, and a good long one a few days ago, in the letter I rec'd this morning he told me to direct my letters to No. 141 Schenner horn street Brooklyn. I believe I have written it right. I have had three or four letters from you this week, I was so glad to get them all. I hope to get a letter from dear father this evening, I have not had one from him yet. It has been a very rainy day. Lutie and I have been up stairs in her room this afternoon, making some dresses for Libbie Bacons doll, a little china doll about as large as Lizzies. I made it a white merino dress and braided it, and Lutie made it a blue dress but to cap the whole Em made two diapers one was trimmed with edging — Oh! mother darling I want to go home so much.

remember me to Bridget I love Mort best and you next. Your little Hannie

I know two weeks from to night I will be at home but I cannot wait until then I shall be so glad to get home Oh! Mother only two weeks from tonight I will be in your arms once again do you think dear Mother and father will be there? I have written to Mother & be sure to come I must see them but how we will miss dear Malcolm poor boy I wonder where he will be and what he will be doing if we could only hear from him It would be such a comfort don't you suppose he will come home next Summer? I went to see him so much indeed I will try never to speak another cross word to him you think it is all right about the daguerreotypes don't you Mother? Sophie wrote to you to tell you all the particulars do not let it trouble you any more you won't will you? You know dear Mother that I love you & dear Mother better than any one in the world and never think for a moment that I could love Mr Lewis more than as a friend for I think he really is a friend to Lulie and as

and gives us very good advice indeed.

Oh! it is so delightful to think I may come home in only two weeks. Lulie Bridget for me that she will have to have a great deal to eat in the house as I expect I shall almost eat you out of house and home. Lulie and I were wishing to-night that we had some bread and milk how good it would taste I think Sophie will go home with me I hope so. dear girl she is so good, but it seems as if I should be perfectly happy two weeks from to night I would answer dear Leggies letter but I have not time I am very glad to get her letters the dear child. Oh! Mother if I could only be as good as you pray for me Mother it seems as if I never could be good. I am afraid I do not know how to try. tell me what to do, I am afraid I do not care enough about it and when I say my prayers I am afraid I do not feel what I say although I try to. if I could only really feel sorry about it it seems as if I would feel better

Monday morning Dec 10th

Dear mother I got up this morning when it was so dark I could not see my hand before me (unless I held it towards the window) so I was almost dressed by the time the rising bell rang. I intend to rise very early all this week and study every morning. I want to see how much I can do before I go home, only eleven days after to day, have I got to stay here. Sophie is going to try to have Lutie come down here to room after Christmas or whenever Em goes home. Just think what a pleasant room mate Em must be, since she has been she has knocked over the pot five times and broken three. I shall be so glad to have Lutie room here, won't it be nice? We had a delightful time here Thanksgiving day. I went to the Episcopal church in the morning, had an excellent dinner when we came home, and in the evening had tableaux. Love to all. Kiss Lizzie Seymour Mattie Sammy & Chick for me.

It was not my silk
dress I have to alter—
but my green delaine
I must try to do it this
week.

I think the direction
is Robert Cambell
Saw St Louis.
I think it is spelt Cambell
but I am not make
it out very well.
God bless you
darling your
own hannie
are you going to
the Malcolm
he has a new brother?
I will not mention
it for I don't know
as you will.

Remember the address
this letter is very badly
written Robert Cambell
St. Louis.

Brooklyn March 3rd 18

My darling Mother

Mr Williams called with my things yesterday I was very glad indeed to see them, and I wore one of my night-gowns last night, 'just to try.' Every thing suits me perfectly. I think the waist of my dress is a very little long in the back, but I could not tell very well, if it is, though I can fix it with out any trouble. you know my dresses have to have such short backs. the night gowns are very pretty, and it was so kind in you to work them so prettily. they are just right, when it is warm some times I can wear in the morning, a clean night gown and shirt, with a black belt. I think they look very pretty. don't you? the chemise too is very pretty and will be so nice to wear with thin low necked dresses, as it is lower than my others. I thank you for sending the hand-herchief too. dear mother you are so kind you always think of every thing.

Most paid me four dollars and a half on Saturday. although I told him he did

not owe me any thing, so I went out with his mother to buy a bonnet. I got a very pretty one. do you remember a white straw Aunt Mary had while at Ann Arbor with white ribbon on? well this is like it with a border of straw and trimmed with white ribbon with a good deal of white lace inside, and a few pink flowers. it comes well on my head, and Mrs Thomson thinks it is too large but I don't know that it is. it cost 4 dollars, and then I had to get a band box which was 18 pence, it has a little stand in the middle for the bonnet to hang on so as not to ~~[illegible]~~ hurt it. I fixed my brown dress on Saturday. in the evening Mrs & Mr Thomson Cliff, Mort and I went to the theater. I did not know what to do about it mother. I told Mort I was afraid it would not be right but he told me there was no harm in it and he said you would not think it wrong, and he engaged seats and bought tickets, and I was so afraid he would be angry if I refused, it is the only night Cliff can go, and Mort generally is busy every night but Saturday. I went once before Saturday night, and I felt the same about it then but we always come out before twelve o'clock. Mr Beecher says that the day don't commence until you get up in the morning, but I want you to tell me if I have done wrong, if you say it is not right I will never do so again tell me dear mother

what to do. But I saw some splendid acting that night. We saw the Merchant of Venice. Mr Wallack was Shylock, and his son a very handsome man and a very fine actor, was Bassanio. Mrs Hoey a star actress was Portia, then there was a little farce called "As Deaf as a Post" but what a splendid actor Wallack is. When Shylock hears from Tubal that Antonio's ships are lost, he falls on his knees and cries "I thank God, I thank God" with such a fiendish look. I rec'd your letter of the 26th a few minutes ago. I was glad to get it mother darling. You ask me if I need any more dress this spring. I do not need any, but can get a long very well indeed, until time for thin dresses, then you know I have a great plenty of them do not worry about me. I have all the clothes I need. When you send me the money I will get some shoes. My leather ones will be good until then and if I have enough I will get a pair of stays, which kind had I better get white or dark? then I will make a white basque for myself, and I have one that Aunt Anne gave me, then when it is quite warm I suppose I shall need some little silk cape, and as soon as I can I must get a pair of kid gloves, I think some not very light will be best but I do not need any of these things quite yet and I will want two or three pair of stockings. I think ten dollars would get

all I shall need this summer (I shall be very careful) except the drawers, and I do not need those for some time yet. but when I need them I can make them I think myself, and I should like to. you know I must learn to do those things. I dare say I can wait and make them when I go home if I go. Margaret has been sick for a day or two, this morning I fixed the parlor. my room. Morts. Cliffs. and Mrs Thomsons. and emptied the slops. and all, and Mrs T. did the other work. I would copy this letter, but I want to make a mat for Mrs Thomson today. I have made one and it is very pretty made of brown and pink crochet cotton, that I got last week. I want to give them to her to morrow as it will be her birth day, and I shall have to work very hard to finish the second mat. I have not done any thing to it yet besides I must write to dear Malcolm when I write next I will tell you more about every thing, and answer your letter more fully. you see I have been very busy this morning, and have a great deal to do this afternoon. Give my love to Betsy, Kiss Lizzie Seymour, Mortie, Sam, and darling baby and Chick for me and remember I how dearly I love you. God bless you my precious Mother try not to feel lonely. I hope dear father will do well and I think he will. if I could only be as good as you are. Your own little Nannie.

Remember me to all my friends,

Mort sends love he will write soon. Lucie [illegible] you [illegible] as [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

Friday Cincinnati Jan 12th 1855

My own darling brother,

I recd your dear letter last evening, with one from mother and one from father. I was so glad to get it, darling, and you must not think that I have forgotten you because I have not written to you before; but you can't think how much I have to do every day. I shall be so glad when mother precious mother gets here, and I shall feel, as she says, as if there was a great load of responsibility taken off my shoulders. I can ask her about every thing I do and can tell her every thing. You do not say any thing in your letter about your coming, are you not coming darling? I hope so, we could have such nice times together, here and in Nash Orchard. I do hope you can come, but if you cannot dear you must not feel badly about it, but I wish I could see you, and dear dear father and all the sweet children, just think I cannot I cannot see them for eight weeks longer I don't know how I could stand it if mother

was not coming. You must not let dear mother get sick. She must ~~she~~ will not work so hard as that, getting ready to come for me. It would be better not to come so soon than to get sick. You must help her as much as possible darling. Go for any thing she wants and do every thing you can for her. And I know you do. My own dear brother. I suppose you have had sleigh rides and every thing like that, in Ann Arbor. I wish I could have a chance, it is so warm here; to day we hardly need a fire, I think. I have not seen a sleigh any where this winter, there has not been snow enough. I don't know but there was snow enough a few days or about a week ago but there was too much mud under it. When I was in Dayton it was delightful so warm and beautiful. almost like spring. Oh! I shall be so glad to get home. did you go to Emily Bull's party? When you come, if you come, you must tell me all about it. I shall be so glad to see dear little beautiful Ann Arbor again and get to my own sweet home again, you can hardly know when you are there, what a sweet pleasant home we have. dear father and mother are the best people in the world and they love us so much and love so much to have us happy and do so much to make us so; yes indeed darling, they do every thing any father and mother could do for their children. how much we ought to do for them. Dear mother and father have had a great deal of trouble and let us try now, we are old enough to do it, let us try to make every thing pleasant and comfortable for them. We will think of them and not of ourselves and we shall be so happy in making them happy. Then our dear brothers and sister, they are all very very good sweet children. don't let us ever speak a cross word to them and we will be the happiest family in the world. We have every thing to make us happy if we are only good. If you were only here we could make such delightful plans and have such nice talks together. I hope you will come with mother. Oh I wish

I could see all of you never mind I shall if we all live, in about eight weeks
Good bye my own darling. I suppose you are going to school now and study very hard, try to improve in every thing dear as much as possible. It will comfort dear father & mother so much if you do remember you are the "oldest son" and you must do wonderful things.
My precious brother I have written this very badly but it was not very light when I wrote the last and now I have lit the gas in Annties room and will finish my letter. Pearlie had the croup the other night and she is not very well yet. she is rather cross. I have been sitting up stairs with her, and Victoire and Ellen (since Auntie went out) writing this letter Auntie has come home now I am glad. I wish you and dear mother were here. I hope you will both be here in about ten days. if you do not come with mother you must comfort precious father as much as possible
Good bye my own precious brother, God bless you darling, and keep you from all harm and evil. Your little bible is a great comfort to me. I love you so much
Your own little sister Nannie

I am glad the girls have not forgotten me give them much love from me. I shall be glad to get back to Yellow Springs School Remember me to Joshua and Susanna Sport little Fannie

(Kiss)

Sunday Evening Cincinnati Jan 12th 55.

My own, precious Mother,

I rec'd your dear letter last evening, it was such a comfort to get it I also got one from dear Mort. this evening I got a New Years Address, you know he wrote one for the "Detroit Advertiser." and he was speaking of it once to one of the Editors of the "Evening Post," Mr Bigelow, and he asked him to let him see a copy of it, so he showed it to him, and Mr B. offered him ten dollars for it. This evening they were speaking of his "Dove-stick" letters at the table and they asked me if he got any thing for them I told them that I did not think that he had got any thing for them but now he was going to write for the Advertiser and get paid for it. dear Mort told me this in one of his letters and he said I need not say any thing about it, but they were asking about it and I told them. Mort tells me, in the letter I got last night that little Ella Sackett has been very sick with the scarlet fever but she is now much better. dear little thing I hope she will

get entirely well. I am so glad my precious mother that you are coming so soon but do not get sick darling. When you come it will be so nice at night when we are in bed and I am in your arms to talk over all our troubles and every thing. I will have so much to tell you, only think in about ten days I shall be too happy. You asked me about Aunt Ellen and Aunt Mary, Aunt Mary is very kind and every thing like that, but I am afraid she does not realy love Aunt Ellen very much but we can talk about this better when you come. I told you in my last letter that Miss Lea Motte said my quarter would be out to day - but last Tuesday, I think it was, she said it would be out the 22nd so I will have four more lessons, I suppose, to take, as many as I thought at first. I have five or six more singing lessons to take I do not think Mr Collière will let me lose those at any rate he says he wants me to take them and if he charges extra. You know you wanted me to take after this quarter, but I do not think he will. Good night darling I must write to father now I love you so ~~me~~

Mine & your sorrow [illegible] Carl [illegible]

(Kiss)

My own precious father. I have written to dear mother and Malcolm and now I will write to you. You do not think I am selfish to want dear mother so soon do you darling? And you must not feel badly when she comes away I am afraid you will be lonesome but try not to be. You know you will have those dear sweet children. There are none children in Cincinnati so pretty and good as ours. indeed there are not any. You don't know how glad I shall be to get home I do want to see you all so much I expect as you say I shall not sleep much the first week mother is here we shall both have so to say and hear. it will be such a comfort to be in her arms telling her all my little troubles and pleasures. Oh! you know how sweet she is, then when I get to my own sweet home again, and can see you and can be in your arms (I expect I am rather a large arm-ful) but when I first get home you must put me a great deal perhaps get me to sleep at night. I shall be so glad to see my own sweet little sister Lizzie, dear little thing kiss her for me. And my precious Seymour I hope will soon

have a chance to kiss his nannie. I am so glad he loves me so much. I love him just as much. then my darling mother he must be a very good boy and study hard, I am very proud to hear that my boy who is only four years old, not quite four, gets above boys six years old, dear little boy. I suppose Seymour is always at the head of his class. now for dear little Sammy the pet, the dear little dutch boy. he is so sweet little early head, don't let any one cut his hair and I will try to take care of it when I come home. (I shall be so happy then if we are all well) I should love to take dear little Sam in my arms and hug him so, and almost eat him up. I love him so much I shall be so glad when I can be at home with you and mother and Malcolm and all the dear children and we will be so happy and we will try to be so good. and I must not forget dear little Chick and Eleen Give them my love and kiss them for me I know they are als good children. I will continue to write to you every week your own little nannie. God bless and keep you

Please write often.
I love you
Ed much

Monroe, Oct 12th 1855.

My dear father,

Your sweet letter came a few evenings ago. I own dear father that I did not deserve it, but I was very glad to get it. forgive me this once father, for letting your letters go so long unanswered and I will never do so again. I will tell you now what I have to do every day. She getting up, bell in the morning rings a little before six, Breakfast at seven, at eight we have half an hour study, or a little more. School bell rings at a quarter before nine, when we have prayers, and after prayers we commence School. the bell rings every half hour. At nine I read, at nine 1/2 I study my university Arithmetic, and parsing lessons, at ten I recite Arithmetic, at half past ten parsing, at eleven I read Rollins History to myself. at half past eleven

I practise at twelve I have half an hour to get ready for dinner or do what I want to. We go to dinner at half past twelve, and School commences again at half past one when I write until two, then I study my Algebra lesson which I recite at three at half past three I study my Spelling lesson, recite that at four, at half past four we all go into the Gymnasium where we take a lesson of Mr Zeus, the handsome music teacher, we stay in the Gymnasium half an hour. take tea at six, at ~~seven~~ half past six we have prayers and an hour and a half study. but I do not have to study in the evening as I practise then.

Now about my music dear father, Mr Zeus that handsome delightful man who I am in love with, thinks I have a talent for music, so he has very kindly lent me some beautiful German music, and has showed me how to play it and I think that is as good as taking lessons. just think how much pains he takes with me

I have just rec'd a letter from mother telling me that she will have to go to Cincinnati next week Tuesday, and from there go with Grandma to F. J. Winnebago, I hope the journey will do her good, dear mother, God bless her. I am glad you have been home to make a visit it must have been a great comfort to you and mother. I hope you will come and see me in two or three weeks oh! father you cant think how I want to see you. I want to tell you one more thing father. I do not want you to deny yourself any thing this winter that you may send me to School, if I thought you or mother were going to deny yourselves any comforts, I would go home this morning. I wish I was at home so I might take care of things while mother is gone but Sannah Inman is going to stay there. You asked me in your letter why the leaves turn yellow in Autumn, I suppose it is from "old age" but I will try to

find a better reason by the next time I write.

There has been a fair in town this week several ladies rode Sophie won the first prize for riding, it was a ladies saddle I had a delightful ride on horse back last Thursday with Soph. I wish I could ride every day.

I must say good bye now dear father for I must write to Mort & Mother Some of the girls are going down to the Lake to day and perhaps I shall go too. Good bye now father God bless you. Your own little Nannie This letter does not look very well but I have not time to copy it

Evening

I went down to the pier this afternoon and had a grand time. I thank you for the two dollars you sent me. Don't be afraid that I shall want for any thing

God bless you

Your Nannie

I suppose Sophie would send love if she was in.

will have great times together, hunting
and riding, and then if you ever
are lonely you can sit down and
talk of your homes, and the dear
ones who are always thinking of you.
You are a noble, good boy Malcolm,
(dont be vain) and will make a
man your dear Father and Mother
will be very proud of, if you
strive always to do right, do not
let little things discourage you,
that is my greatest trouble. I am
so willing to let any little thing
keep me from doing as I should,
let us both, try dear Malcolm,
to be very steady, and not stand
still for little things. we will
both try for I shall work harder
if I think you are trying to
overcome the same fault, that I
am, that is if you have the same
fault I dont know that you have,
but there are very few people who have
not a little at least, &c. Cliff will
be great company for you dear brother
so will Horace and Ellen, I am glad

Love you
Kenny

the dear children are to see their
mother and she must have been
delighted to see them. I guess
too you were glad to see Uncle
Mellen and Aunt Ellen.
I hope dear Malcolm I shall
see you by next spring if not before
then in little over a year if we
all live, I think most & I will
make you all a visit. Don't let
Uncle forget. My horse — Kiss
Ellen and Horace for me and the
little cousins whd I have never yet seen

I shall commence
music as soon
as the piano comes
I suppose this
week.

Mrs Thomson
will write soon.
she will do as
well do as she
can for Mrs D.
The cream came
safe and
was sweet I believe.

God bless you
mother & father.
tell father I will
write to him in
a few days.

God bless you
Pray for me.
Mrs T. sends love
I am very well.

Monday

Yesterday, but most unfortunately for me, I was not able to write you, so I thought it best to wait a day and then I shall be able to write a good long letter. I shall commence about you all about my journey I suppose father and dearling little Paul. We met at the depot in N.Y. When she saw us she was very young she was very glad to see us. Mother got to Detroit safe. I to the Cayuga and then we changed and came to Lulie very soon. My card to Lulie. Aunt Rhoda came and asked me in to her room. She said Lulie had gone out riding but would be home soon. When she came she was very

Nannie

kiss all the children dear
father and darling little Paul
write often and do not work hard
God bless you dear dear mother

Your own Nannie

If I had time I would
copy this letter but I will
take more time for the
next. I have so much
to tell you. I heard
Mr Beecher preach
last evening I wish you
were here

Nannie

glad to see me and we had a very good visit together. She took me all over the new part of the Exchange, and while we were wandering around among drawings and such things, we saw Mr. Ed Lyon. Lulie's Uncle. When he saw us he kissed and embraced us both several times. I think he is a very sweet little man. Before I went away we went up stairs to see Mrs Lyon, Lulie's mother. She was overseeing the making of a great many carpets, so she could not come down. She is a very fine substantial looking woman larger than you. She kissed me too when I went up stairs and when I came down. Father and I went out after dinner and called on Mrs. Seldan and Mrs Abbott and we went to a book store and got the Christmas number of "House hold words" called "Holly tree Inn." Father went over to Canada with me. I was very sorry to bid him good bye, dear father was there ever so good a man! Mrs. Thomson thinks he is so much like Col. Newcome and I think he is. don't you? well after a while I tried to read a little in the book father gave me and I read one chapter in Thomas a Kempis. is that spelled right? but the coach is so very rough that I could not read a great deal the the cars were quite full. I sat by the old lady and Cliff sat out on front seats. I managed to sleep a good deal jolted about as we were and once when I woke up I found I had dropped the book father gave me and a gentleman told me that he saw a man pick it up. I was so sorry to lose it, but my other book is safe. I lost one of my puff combs too and when we got out of the cars after croping the suspension bridge I put my veil on my bonnet (I think I put it on) but when we got into the depot I could not find it. I don't know

how I lost it, perhaps some one took it off or perhaps it was pulled off in the crowd. it was very early in the morning and was not very light. the old lady then left us and got into the cars and went on. while we got into a sleigh and went to a hotel thinking we could go up to the falls. well we got breakfast there but the snow was so deep that we could not have gone very near the falls, and could not have seen them much better than we did from the window, so we thought it would be better to take the next train of cars. what I saw of the falls was beautiful and the suspension bridge too. but I think it will be pleasanter there in the summer. well as I said we took the next train of cars and got to Syracuse in the afternoon. there we had to get out as the wheel one of the wheels of our car was broken, but, I think it was, before we got there. when we changed

[Feb. 1856]

when we got to Chamber street I believe, we got in to an omnibus it was awful going through Broadway for the snow was piled up on each side and once we had to stop a long time, and we saw a police man whip one poor horse for so much as five or ten minutes because he would not pull, at last he acted better and went along. You know it was Washingtons birth day, and there was some thing of a crowd. But we managed to get there at last. We saw Mrs Thomson just then most they were both rather glad to see us. I think it must have been near four o'clock in the afternoon (when we got here) but I must tell you the greatest joke yet. I was taken for Cliff's wife! one man on the cars was asking Cliff where he had been and if he was going after his wife Cliff said he was not supposed to have any wife the man said he thought I was his wife

but Cliff said I was suppose to be his sister. Mrs Phillips Mr Thomson sister got here with Sarah Gay very late the night we came but I was in bed. I like Mrs. Phillips, but Miss Gay I cannot get acquainted with she is quite still and you know I do not make a great deal of noise among strangers. We started for Niblo's last night to see the Ravels, but the stage we were in got fast to another and we were afraid of being late so we walked home. Mort and Ed were not with us if Mort had been there we would have had to go through if it killed us. But darling mother I have written a long letter and have told you a great deal still I fear it will not be very interesting and I have written so long that I cannot write very well. Mort thinks I had better not commence school until next term. I believe two weeks of this term have gone and

Mrs. Thomson says there are thirteen weeks in a term.

cars once that our old lady found us again and got into the car where we were. in the evening after we left Syracuse a wheel broke again and we had to go in to the ~~one~~ car before us, I was rather sorry to leave the poor little lame car it had limped a long so slowly making the queerest noise you ever heard. well when I left the lame car I thought I had dropped a hand ker-chief and I looked about our seat but could not find it. We were very near Albany then and we could not come on that night so we stopped the old lady and all and went to a hotel, it was a very nice house and we had a beautiful room, a handsome parlor lighted with gas, with a piano and nice chairs and so forth in it and two bedrooms, opening out of it. Cliff took one and Mrs Ham" (the old lady)

and I had the other. The next
morning when I awoke Mrs Dana
was praying out loud by the bed and
she made a very good prayer, mother.
We took breakfast there and then
crossed the river on the ice. When
we got into the cars I remembered
that I had not put up my belt, but
it was too late then. I was so sorry
mother for it was a very pretty one
and you gave it to me and used
to wear it. I believe that was the
last thing I lost. I did not lose my soap
or any of those things. Oh! mother how
careless and thoughtless I am, but do for-
give me you know I never traveled
with out you before. Mrs Dana got
off at Hudson. she gave me a little
good advice. I want you to be sure and
tell father her name for we were
wondering what it was. When we
got to Cleveland they just hooked on one
of the cars and we all got into that.

Brooklyn March 17th 1856.

My darling Lizzie

When Mother last wrote to me, you were sitting on the crib looking at Morts engravings, you had been having a cold, she said, I am sorry for you dear but if that delightful little Doctor attended you, I suppose you must be quite well now aint you?

I wish you were here little darling. There are so many things you would like to see in Brooklyn and in New York. Friday evening

ful very sorry if you have
were treated them unkind,
by and have ever refused,
to help them about any thing when
you see them in trouble
or wanting help.
I want to make you a
present of the "English
Orphans" I know you like
it very much.
Give my love to Betsy and
tiss her for me remember
me to Bridget and Jane.
God bless you My
darling your own
sister Nannie

or I believe it was, I went out with Ed and Mort. We went to see the glass works. they have a great fire there that has not gone out for seven years, (I believe,) and there are men at work there all the time, day and night. so that the fire wont go out, for it would cost five thousand dollars, (I think mort said five thousand) to build it up again. We saw them make tumblers, bottles, and lamps. it was very funny to see them make the lamps. first the made the square bottoms. then they put some of the hot glass into a mould and a man would blow through a long pipe to make the lamp hollow. then they would take it out and stick the top part of the lamp to the bottom. they made shades for lamps too, and they make a great many things

I suppose that we did not see, it seems strange that they can do any thing with glass when it is melted. you shall see all those sights if we live and you come here and make me a visit.

Tell Mother that morts "Waverly Novels" are beautiful though I have not read any as yet. I have always forgotten to say any thing about his books. he has a great many and has "Hogarths works" bound very handsomely, in two volumes. The little boys around here have great times now flying kites and spinning tops, I wish Seymour could see them.

Oh! how I wish you all lived in Brooklyn, it is so delightful here, you would all like it very much I know.

Kiss dear Mother and

Father for me, Lizzie darling, and
always be very kind to them, and
do all you can to help them.
You will never know how good
and kind they are, and how much
they do for you until you leave
them. You must leave them before
you know how much they are worth
them. You will see, that though
every one is kind to you, and does
all they can to please you, and
love you dearly, there is no one in
this world like dear mother and
father. and I don't believe any one
has such a dear sweet mother and
father as we have. do you?
Kiss dear little Ivy mouse for me
I am glad he is better. kiss Nettie
Sammy and Paul tell them
all that I love them very dearly
and they must always be very good
be kind to them always darling
for when you leave them you will

Sunday evening Brooklyn April 18th 1856.

Mrs dearest mother

I did not go to church to day nor did any one but Ed. it has been a beautiful day and is delightful this evening it is I should think about seven O'clock the sun has just set Mrs. Thomson Mort Mrs. Sabine and Cliff have gone to Mrs. Crombys I did not feel like going but knew I should be much happier writing to you my own precious mother Mrs. Sabine leaves on Tuesday. I cannot say that I shall break my heart for she may be good enough but I cannot love her much though she is very pleasant to me but she notices every thing a persons says wears or does and when I was playing "The Pleasures of Home" yesterday she would tell me some of the time when to play loud, and when to play no faster and I cannot stand it to have a person do so and she was not by the piano and Ed and Mrs T. were in the room and I think perhaps I knew how to play it with the music before me and if not she could not help

Letter, but I am afraid it would keep it from you a day later. I am to take a music lesson tomorrow and will by to write on Friday and tell you all about it. Dear Mother do not work here & remember how deeply I love you. Your own little Nannie

I am very happy if I could but see you. I shall not need any more dresses for a year. Nannie

me much by talking. I wish Mort
had been in the room for I do believe
he would have told her to stop her
noise, it puts me out so to have
any one talk to me in that way when
I am playing.

Tuesday Morning

My darling Mother I wrote this far Sunday
up in my little room where I now am
until it grew too dark to write any longer
I would have finished this letter yesterday
and sent it but I wanted to wait until
I had seen Mr Sherff. Mort went to N.Y.
and I dressed myself about two o'clock he
came back with Mr Sherff he is a short
and rather stout little man with black
hair and whiskers and wears gold
rimed spectacles he is not really handsome
but very pleasant looking and has very pretty
fat little hands. Mort told him I was
his cousin I did not take a lesson but
played "tremolo" for him and he said
I played it very well he is going to
bring me some thing to take when he
comes next Thursday My lessons are to
be on Mondays & Thursdays from two to three
he played a little but he says he does
not play much without music altogether
he is a very pleasant "sweet" little man.

Wednesday

Dear Mother Yesterday Mort saw Mr.
Millen and got my dress. I am going
to have the skirt washed to day. I
took it down stairs this morning and
was going to wash it, and a pink all
wool De Laine sack Mrs Thomson gave me
yesterday but Margret would not let me and
she is going to wash them herself. I am
going to make the sack over like the
pattern you sent Mrs T. will cut it for me
and the skirt I will turn upside down
and line it with white paper cambric,
and put a braid on the bottom and it
will really make a beautiful dress with
the sack I am so glad you thought to
send it, as I will not have to get a De Laine
basque now. I think I can well get a lining
for my skirt, it will wear so much longer
too, it will be quite long enough for me by
letting down the tuck, and by turning it
upside down none of the dams will show.
Are you going to write to Malcolm again? I will
try to answer dear father's letter tomorrow or
Friday and will send it to Ann Arbor with
one to you. My darling Mother I am
so anxious to see dear Malcolm and I do
hope he will not go away again. I rec'd
a letter from you yesterday, for some
things I am glad and for some sorry,
that Aunt Ellen is going to marry
Mr Mort is very glad he thought it would,

be so all the time, and Mrs Thomson has often spoken of it, although I did not tell her what you wrote. I hope dear Grand-ma will not feel badly, and I hope she will spend a good part of her time with you now, for I think she would be happier with you than any of her children. I shall be very glad to see them all in the summer. Most did not answer your question about writing, for the [illegible] but he said he would try to write to you on Sunday. I for my part think you are able to write, if you had time and I suppose most thinks so too. he would have written to day but he was busy writing a Doesticks letter for the New Yorker, I believe, and he has gone to New York now and I can't wait for him. I am glad little Paul has been out. I wonder if Mrs Morgan would not remember him in her wife I think she might don't you? How is poor Mary Lawrence? send my love to her if you have a chance, Mrs. Thomson said she would send Mrs Danforth's cloak by Mr Millen I have not seen him yet, he was to go to Boston last night, but he will be back again soon and will come over here. Does not Long-Island belong to N. Y.? Kiss my Lizzie Ley mour, Mortie, I am Paul and [illegible] for me remember me to Betsy. I would copy this

[Car. Mar. 17, 1856]

My dear darling Mother

Your dear letter came last Saturday, and was very welcome indeed, as it is ever sure that comes from my dear home. I am so glad Betsy is with you. It was a pity to hear that Lizzie and Willie were staying at home with colds, but I suppose Willie is much better now, he has such a superior physician. I am sorry for you all that it continues so cold. For I think as soon as it is warm it will do you a great deal of good to go out. But be very careful of yourself, dear Mother. Write and tell me all about yourself, how you are getting along, and keep warm, and be sure & let me know if any of you are sick. Are you getting well as fast as you generally do? And now Mother tell me about your self. Do more than you should? I am afraid you will work too hard. Do! Mother if you love me, do rest. I am glad you mentioned that about the "English Orphans" in your letter. I shall be very happy to give the book to dear little Lizzie. Indeed I shall write her a note. She is the only little sister I have now, and should be willing to give her any thing to make her happy. When I am

Monday Brooklyn March 17th 1856.

My darling Father

I recd a letter from dear Mother last Saturday. She says you are still in Iowa City waiting for the weather to moderate, which I hope it will do soon, though it is very pleasant, I should like it a little warmer is there snow on the ground still! it has all gone here, except piles here and there, but they are fast disappearing. I don't know whether there is any over in New York, or no, for I have not been there for little over a week.

As soon as you go to Chicago you will write to me, and tell me what you are doing and how you are getting along, and (My dear Father) do not be down hearted if you should not get in to business right off. I know it must be very trying and is enough to make any one down hearted but it does no good to be so.

Do not sit down and think how poor you are, and worry, and think how are you to get things you need for worrying about them will do no good and will only wear you out before

Monday evening March 17th

Mrs Thomson and I are going out this week to get our spring hats. I think the Piano will get here this week. I hope so. I want to commence music very much.

I am very sorry to hear such bad news from poor Mary Lawrence. I hope she will get better. Poor girl it is dreadful to think of her dying leaving as she does and I think the Church aught to be hung & by the heels and just stuck into hell. Please if he ever comes to our house send him right out again for I should certainly do it if I was there. I am not joking he is the meanest man that ever drew breath.

Good bye Mrs Lawrence. Good bye Mary. Good bye Father. Love from Georgie.

Kiss Mother & Hattie for me.

Sunday Dear Mother I am writing a few lines to you to let you know that I am well and hope you are the same. I have been to church this morning and heard a very good sermon. I have been to Sunday School this afternoon. I have got a new class. I like my teacher very much. I have got a new book to read. I have got a new dress and a new hat. I have got a new pair of shoes. I have got a new pair of gloves. I have got a new pair of stockings. I have got a new pair of garters. I have got a new pair of drawers. I have got a new pair of shirts. I have got a new pair of collars. I have got a new pair of cuffs. I have got a new pair of ties. I have got a new pair of braces. I have got a new pair of suspenders. I have got a new pair of belts. I have got a new pair of buckles. I have got a new pair of studs. I have got a new pair of sleeve links. I have got a new pair of watch chains. I have got a new pair of watches. I have got a new pair of rings. I have got a new pair of pins. I have got a new pair of brooches. I have got a new pair of earrings. I have got a new pair of necklaces. I have got a new pair of bracelets. I have got a new pair of anklets. I have got a new pair of toe rings. I have got a new pair of nose rings. I have got a new pair of ear rings. I have got a new pair of hair pins. I have got a new pair of combs. I have got a new pair of brushes. I have got a new pair of mirrors. I have got a new pair of looking glasses. I have got a new pair of spectacles. I have got a new pair of opera glasses. I have got a new pair of telescopes. I have got a new pair of microscopes. I have got a new pair of magnifying glasses. I have got a new pair of burning glasses. I have got a new pair of lenses. I have got a new pair of prisms. I have got a new pair of mirrors. I have got a new pair of looking glasses. I have got a new pair of spectacles. I have got a new pair of opera glasses. I have got a new pair of telescopes. I have got a new pair of microscopes. I have got a new pair of magnifying glasses. I have got a new pair of burning glasses. I have got a new pair of lenses. I have got a new pair of prisms.

your time and it will make you old before you have any reason to think of being old, and "your Heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things." and I know he will not let us want. And don't despise your self and think that you do not deserve any thing, (and of course we do not for any good thing we have done deserve any thing) only think how merciful God is, and how great his love is, and do not be doubtful. for I think by being too humble one is apt to grow doubtful, and never expects to see any good thing, and they grow old and wither up. I don't mean to say that you are like this dear Father and you wont think that I mean to preach to you and advise you will you? for I dont think you need my advice but if you had heard Mr Beecher's Sermon yesterday morning, you would have felt like writing to every one to warn them against being doubtful. I went to church with Ed and Mort in the evening, but I sat where I could not see Mr Beecher and could not hear him very well, and it was so very warm and so crowded, that I felt faint and tired and every way uncomfortable, and I was rather Sleepy too. But I must say good bye now, for I want to write to Mother and Lizzie.

Please write to me often. God bless you my precious Father Your own daughter Nannie Anna H. Van Cleve to the best man in the world.

or doing any thing very improper and I shall study so very hard and practise as much as I possibly can, so that I can be a good scholar and be perfect in music, and I dare say after all I may outshine the daughters of the good people who draw down their faces at the mention of my name and I suppose they will not allow their children to visit me when I get home, but when they find I have done nothing wrong, and know something, and when I am married to most and am better off than many of them I fancy there will be a good many who will almost get down on their knees to me, and will be proud to say they knew me, and will say they always loved me now Mother, perhaps there may be a little bit of vanity in this, but I do not mean to be vain altho I mean what I say. I think every one thinks in the

that I do not know much, and have no character, but I will show them that they are mistaken. When I am with any one like you, or Mary, I am very apt to lean on them and not depend enough upon myself, but when I am with out either, I can think for myself, and am not so easily led as one might think. And Mother while I am here I intend if I possibly can to learn a very hard lesson that is to learn to talk, it will be a very very hard lesson for me, I might talk now as well as some girls but I would rather not open my mouth than to talk as they do, for they can talk a day without saying one word of sense and their continual babble of beaux, disgusts me but I will read and try to store my mind with some thing useful then I am not afraid that I shall want for something to say. But good talking is like good music there are so many

who do not appreciate or understand it.
But oh! if I could but learn one great
lesson how to serve God right. Why can't
I when he is so very good to me
and I have so very much to be
thankful for? I think that is a
very good book Aunt Nancy gave
you and I read in it every day
and in my dear little Bible too
and sometimes I read in the Bible
you gave Mat. I think Mat and
I will come and see you this
summer if you don't come here
perhaps we can come in the summer
vacation then wont we have good
talks! The piano will not be finished
until the 15th Mrs. Phillips & Sarah
are still here. They would have left
today but Sarah was not well enough
so they will stay until Monday.
I suppose Mrs Clark is highly delighted
with her new what shall I call it
perhaps "new mill" will do. There was a

Tuesday Morning

My dearest Father,

We have just rec'd a letter from Mother mailed at Dunleith. I am very sorry she was too late for the boats, but am very glad that she met such pleasant people who would take care of her, and hope she will get home safely by next Saturday. Why don't you answer my letter? I am so anxious to hear from you. I believe Mort is going to write a letter to Mother this morning. Tell Mother that I am going after my cloak this morning and will try to finish it to day. So write to me dear Father I am afraid you are all frozen to death, nearly. I will try to write you a long letter next week Good bye and May God Bless you all

Your letter hamid

Mort sends much love
Mort has no time to write now
Wit will do so soon — Romine

Eye
Will
Tire
Tomorrow

Cincinnati Jan 26th

My own precious father,

Mother has not come yet. I hope she will come this evening or tomorrow certainly I am afraid she will not get here until next week. I wish she could get here this evening or tomorrow morning as I will take my last dancing lesson tomorrow afternoon and I should love to have her see me dance once, I can dance quite nicely now. I will try to teach the children when I get home. I thought that I should not get through with my dancing until a week from tomorrow but Mr. Ernest said that tomorrow would be the last. I rec'd your dear letter last Monday with a little more than a page from dear Mother. I am glad they are going to build the union school house. I hope they will have a good school there. I suppose I will go to school when I get home, I think I should like to. I have not gone for so long. I hope there will be a good school in Lancaster. but perhaps dear Mother will have time to teach me, that would be much better

than going to school, then I should have time to practise and draw. Yes, when I think of it, I think I would rather not go to school, but I will stay at home and study and practise and draw, (Mother said I should learn to draw when I got home), and we should be so happy with dear Mother and the children and you my dear father when you are at home. Oh! indeed we will be so happy if we are all well. It has been very cold here this week, there has been more snow than I have seen this winter, that is not much though, I have not seen one sleigh this winter. I am afraid it will be very cold for dear Mother to travel now. After tea Auntie has come home with a letter from you and Mother. I hope dear Mother was able to leave home this week but Oh! I hope and pray that she has not and will not suffer from the cold. if she would only get here this evening I would be so happy you can't think, we would just run arms around each other and talk over all our troubles. Oh! I hope she will get here this week, I hope you got the money certainly by Tuesday; but I must not be so selfish for I am afraid if she started this week she has had a very cold time. dear Mother, I wish she was here, it would be so nice. I have so much to tell her. I am very sorry to hear of the death of Mrs. Wood, she was such a sweet pretty little woman. Do not be afraid my dear father that I shall let dear Mother stay away from home too long, I want to get home so much, I hope I can be with you in six week at the furthest, I am so anxious to have dear Mother here and to get home. No coal boats have got down yet but I do not think we will find much trouble in getting up to Peach Orchard I do not think Aunt Mary will be able to go with us as little Ellen has been quite sick. She is not well yet. Auntie does not think she can go. Mother can find all about how we are going to get up there. When she comes she can find out about it better than I can, then she will write to you all about it. Oh! if she was only here, but I must try not to feel badly she will be here soon perhaps to morrow I hope so. it would be as

pleasant if she would come this evening. We are all sit-
-ting in the dining room Uncle, Auntie, Miss Appleton.
(she was here to tea) and Little Lally and I, it would be so
sweet, there is a nice fire in this room and
the gas gives such a pleasant light then the
fire is all laid ready to light up in mothers room
and after while, about nine or ten, we would go up
to our room and would go to bed and talk oh! so
long about you and all. if she was only here it would
be so sweet. it would be so nice to go to sleep in
her dear arms to-night. but, I must go up stairs and
write my journal and get ready for bed. do not feel
badly when mother goes away, remember we will both be
with you in a few weeks then it will be so pleas-
-ant, won't we have nice times? Oh! we will all be so
happy; I shall be so glad to get home. Give all
my love to all my friends, remember me to
Sophia and Susanna, kiss all the dear children,
if Malcolm does not come I will write to him very
soon kiss him for me, I love all the dear dear
children so much. I will kiss dear mother for you,
when she comes. I hope we can both write to you
next Friday. I love you so much dear father