



Horatio P. Van Cleve and
family papers.

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Horatio P. Van Cleave
Lansing
Michigan

much love to all the children to
Cousin Ransom and family when
you see them -

Good bye. May God bless
and keep you -

Yours affectionately

Sophie Wells.

Mauroe, Oct. 13th 1855

Dear Mother:-

Your letter received
last night was a source of great
relief to me. I thank you ten thousand
times for its words of love and sympathy
and your renewed confidence in me.
I suffered much from the consequences
of the letters received from home. Thank
you for your encouragement, I have
hoped and trusted. What will be the
next news from home I do not know
but I wrote as hopefully as possible
promising to return home if neces-
sary immediately. However I do not
think this will be necessary before
February. I have seen Mr. Boyd
and arranged about home.

He seemed willing to wait. Annie
is progressing finely stands 10
or rather perfect every week.
Mr. Leno takes a great interest
in her and teaches her music
all out of his own free will. Indeed
he could not do better if she
should take regular lessons. The
only fear I have is that she
will fall in love with his handsome
face and sweet voice. He is in-
deed very fascinating but Nannie
has disposed of her heart. I have
no fears, that she will ~~not~~ be in-
jured. It is very kind in him
to take so much interest in Nannie
and I think she will improve.
He thinks she plays beautifully
and has fine taste.

She seems very happy and con-
tented, and all that I can
possibly do to assist her shall
be done. I only regret that I
can do no more. I expect
George here Wednesday with
his bride. He seems very hap-
py with his prospects. I hope
all will go well with you in your
approaching sickness. Perhaps
Nannie can be home with you
on that occasion. We received
a good long letter from Mr. T. C.
full of love and praise. He seems
in the finest of spirits. I have
a severe headache this morning
which must excuse a short
and badly written letter. Give

Ann Arbor Oct 18th 1853

My dear Husband,

Your welcome letter enclosing
a letter to Sophie, was rec'd this evening.
I shall write to Monroe this evening
and enclose your letter. I rec'd letters
from the girls and find that Anna
is getting on famously. I will enclose
Sophie's letter and you may judge
for yourself what sort of an impression
our little girl is making.

It is well you see that her heart was
given away so early, or she might
become a flitt. for she certainly will
be very much admired.

I have completed my arrangements
for my journey and expect to start
to-morrow afternoon. I leave every
thing well arranged, flour and
wood provided, groceries laid
in, and different sorts of provisions

as I can't bear to leave him
and I don't
like to do
without
him - I don't
know to the
C. O. N.

Hannah is here and is ready to
take charge of the children who are
all attached to her. Lizzie is well
except one of her stiff necks which
is better than it has been since
hides fair to be entirely well in a
day or two - Your clothes are to be
brought home on Wednesday
morning and I leave money
with Hannah to pay for them
if it is favorable, and I trust
I shall be able to return to the
children in ten days. I feel a
little sad at the thought of
leaving them, but I know I am
in the path of duty, and will
not flinch from it on account
of feeling - I would not start
so soon by two or three days
but that I want to take advantage
of this pleasant weather
to get home in time to welcome
you my darling. God will protect

us during our separation and
when we meet again we will
have much to tell each other.
If any thing should happen at
home Hannah will write to you
but I apprehend nothing of the
kind. Mrs. May for the time
to watch over the family, and my
neighbors are kind of itself.
I shall hope to get a letter from you
at Cincinnati telling me you are
proud of my movements and
I shall feel happier about it, although
had I supposed you would not be
willing for me to go I of course
would not have gone - I borrowed
of Mr. Bookies to night \$6.50 for
I wanted a little of my own in
case I should feel like getting any
thing while gone - and besides I
did not want to start without
enough to meet emergencies -
This I wish you would return to

him if possible this week with many
thanks, for he did it so freely and
nobly, that I shall not soon forget
it. Also if you can spare it, you
had better send him \$4.00 for
trip fare, he promised to send
him to her if you sent it, It will
not be necessary for you to make
any other arrangements until my
return, not even then if I can
bring my quarterly payment with
me as I hope to do. I will of course
drop you a line from Cincinnati
to and other stopping places and
you had better write to Lizzie
once or twice. The children are
all very well, I should go, and
will not suffer on account of my
absence, Tell Mrs. Sanford that they are
flourishing, across the way and will be
wonderfully nice when she comes back.
Don't get your other eye put out to day,
at midday and pretty married women
want you to keep one eye for me. Good
night darling, pray for me, from our dear wife



Horatio P. Van Cleve
Lansing
Michigan

who is much better tonight - I am so glad to hear that you had a pleasant conversation with the old folks. Today I have been entertaining company who came into the Fair and a dreadful hard day I have had of it. I let Bridget go early in the morning, and before ten o'clock the Appearances came down like a wolf on the fold" but I have tried through it and here I sit, everyone in bed but myself and I have

go on with when I get to C.
I know Hannah will take
good care of the household
and am sure that nothing
will suffer for want of me.
You know I am a woman of
great perseverance, and generally
accomplish what I undertake.
You must write to Anna often
and I shall write to you ^{both} ~~her~~ ^{often}.
Won't we have a great deal
to talk of when we meet. I saw
Mr Ford today and he said
that if that road goes on Westfield
has promised to do the best he
could for you. I shall try and
get John Maynard to sell the
farm and then you and your
handsome wife can live at their
ease. I presume I am glad Mrs. Lane
likes me. I was afraid she thought
me too mild. My love to her and the
other ladies. Peace for me darling.
The children are all well but Lizzy

Mr. Clark for the returned last winter.

Saturday Oct 6th [1855]

My Dear Sister,

I write a hurried note and beg a speedy answer; you know Mother's plan of making a trip to Mumbagg this fall, I have always promised to go with her and should like the trip above everything but this would entail the necessity of traveling with a child and nurse and if you could leave your family for a week or 10 days you would perhaps be more cognizant of places and people than I. Mr. Lincoln will of course pay your expenses as I know you will feel right we all contribute something to his work of Mother's you your time and company which I would gladly do if able

and Mr. L. and I what we can ^{very well} spend.
My plan is that you start as soon
as possible with Ellen and come here
when Mother & George Leighton will
be ready to accompany you to
port Mumbago. George Leighton goes
to transact the business. If you
should prefer to ~~go~~ visit Mother at
Chicago on account of the Lake
let us know the day you will be
here by telegraph but the truth is
Mother ought never to travel without
some relative and I should feel
more secure if you could accom-
-pany her from here. I do not
know whether you can possibly
leave your family but as Ellen is
to come down this winter I see
no better opportunity and Mother
so much prefers your going with
her. Let us know immediately
by telegraph your decision and
when to expect you. Mother is

very delicate - so much so as
to have been confined to her bed
several days since she has been here
but when this business is off her mind
she will I am sure feel better.
I am anxious to see Ellen and
hope she may enjoy her visit to
Aunt Mary which her father & I
promised her last summer. Ma
talks of taking her up. Sandy with
her when she returns. All with
much love from us to you all no news
but plenty of mosquitoes.

Yours truly

Mary Lincoln

Telegraph immediately on the
receipt of this letter. What day you
will be here if you can come, or
if not ~~at~~ simply let us know by
a negative if there is any difficulty
about money. Mr. L. will arrange that
as we can only contribute but to this
occasion.

Best to people of New York and for
is worth "but in all do not
make their own lives but

Ann Arbor July 25th 1833

My dear Child

I write a few lines to
say to you that you had better
go and see what Anne, find
out from her when she is
coming up and make your
arrangements to come with
her. Uncle told me this morn-
ing that he should go for her
to-morrow or next day and
should probably spend the day
there returning in the afternoon
train so that there will be
time for you to get ready with-
out any trouble. Tell Uncle
John about it, and he will
see that it is all arranged
right. Be careful to pack up
all your dresses and make
no more trouble than neces-
sary. I am afraid you have

The young lady, of
the name of Anne,
is worth "but in all do not
make their own lives but

about used up all your clean
clothes - but you must man-
age as well as you can. Lizzie
had better wear her brown
lawn on the card, if her others
are soiled. you will have
to take a few stitches in it.
I have had two long letters from
father. he is well; and sends
any quantity of love to you
and Lizzie. Thank dear Lizzie
for the sweet note she sent him
and you for the letter you
wrote him. does not seem
at all impatient for his picture
to be sent. ~~to be sent~~
name been found out!! He
needs watching you see.
He begs you to watch me and
not let me write too much
but if you goes on to unblock
ingly in this evil course, I
shall be driven to the brand
bottle, as my only comfort.

His work will keep him a month
longer although he may visit
home in the meantime.
He miss you both very much
but I will not complain
so long as you are enjoying
yourself. You must give
much love to all the friends
and relations, tell them it
would give me much pleasure
to continue my visit to you
silence one of these days
but I cannot say when that
time will be. The child
is an all round healthy
happy child. ~~He is~~
an expert and has prob-
ably explained his sickness while
we were gone. I want you
to try and get "Vanity Fair"
from Mrs Goddard. I should
like to read it again.
I went with Mrs Williams to
the lower town yesterday to

visit Mrs Harris. He had
a very pleasant time.
I want you to answer the
letter which I enclose to
morrow, without fail. Your
last week's letter was so
long & tedious that you had
best begin to let me
say. Get up early in the
morning and write a good
letter, now do not tell him
of any thing and every thing
that has occurred during
your visit. The last circum-
stances with regard to your
visit to him.
What sort of a party will
some of them return with
you? Ask them I should
be glad to have them. If
he would like to visit all day
any or all of them they will
be welcome. Ask Mrs. Hunt
and Bretton why they cannot

Ann Arbor Nov 14th 1855

My darling Child,

I have only time to write a few lines to you this morning. to let you know we are all getting along very well. Father has come home and his health is not as good as I could wish but I shall have Dr Sager see him and I think he can give him something to cure him. It is very pleasant to have him at home and it is hard to think he cannot stay all winter, as soon as he gets well enough he feels as if he must go to Chicago to find his wife and I must make up my mind to spare him the rule and write him a good long letter this week instead of to me as usual. I would like much to hear from you. I had a nice letter from Mr. A. a few days since which I must answer today. He together with me and then you is getting out a book. I suppose he has written

to you about it. His father left this place
last week and after making a visit
to his friends in Rochester will go on
to Brooklyn. He seems very well. I never
saw him look so well. I trust he may
be well in New York. Cliff was quite
well when I last wrote. I am afraid
his work is too hard for him.

How are you getting along with your
studies? You must do your very best
now and take care of your health too.
Be sure and exercise as much in the
open air as you can. Never mind
the cold run out and get warm keep
your blood in circulation and your
mind will be more active. I am
glad to hear you are as well as
I am. I am not. I have to run and
chase around that yard and gar-
den. The time of your absence is short
and you will be here, and you will
it. I wish much that Sophia could come
when you do. Perhaps she can. Keep the
dear girl for me and tell her to keep

up her spirits. I thought she looked sad
when I left and her sorry face has
haunted me ever since. I have
not yet been to see Betty, but shall
if I have one day this week.

I like Mary Stanforth to write to you
and she keeps the note if she can
get time. She goes to school to Miss
Clark, and works very hard when
she is at home. Her mother had
a great many boarders, and the
child is kept on the pump from morn-
ing till night. Did I tell you that Boston
had a son? I have not seen it.

I have not called to see Anne. Bridget
has been gone ever since I saw her
and I have not seen her since. I have
not Kingsteys but she seems to be passing
rapidly. Our church has given a
call to a Mr. Mauley of Providence.
I don't know whether he will come
or not, but the people seem to like
him very much. He seems to say yet
when Father says that you are
able to come. I shall just go

Did you find a little black cravat, fringed
which I used to wear round my neck
If you can bring it home when you
come, it belongs to the little sister.

When you see Jacob remember me to him
and also to Mr & Mrs Lloyd and all
the teachers - your roommates and every
body who would value my remembrance.
I shall expect to see a regular woman
when you come home - I shall speak
to the Sexton about your coming to church
I am - your affectionate friend
Send love to your dear father and mother
and love to all - God bless you

Richd Bechard May 2nd 56

Dear Charlotte

Just rec'd your letter of the 24th April, ^{shall} have
been at home a week tomorrow, am glad that you were all
pretty well; fear that missing that big boy through the summer
will be almost too much for you — you will be sorry to hear
that Mrs Smith Mr Mellen's sister is dead, she left five children,
the youngest 8 days old; 'tis very sad; Mr Mellen is much
distressed, her oldest is a fine child about 17 or 18 years old;
capable of taking care of the family, but who can supply the
place of a dear mother to such a family? We dear Charlotte
can fully realize that "in the midst of life we are in death"
you may look for Mr M. and Ellen from the 15th to the 20th of
June — they will be married should nothing prevent the week
after next — we expect a clergyman from Cincinnati and
hope Mary and Mr Lincoln will come — Mr Mellen will be
gratified and it will be pleasant for Ellen — she would be
delighted to have you with us, but will see you so soon
that she is reconciled to wait, perhaps she may conclude to
go on and stay with you until Mr Mellen gets through with
some business which will detain him some days in Cincinnati
she will write you all about it — if I do not come
to Ann Arbor with Malcolm, I think I shall come in September

9th Ellen has just run up in haste to say that she is not able
 to write this morning, much love, will write in a few days -
 my love and kisses to the children, and remember me to all
 friends. Good bye my dear child

Your Mother

with Affection

Oct. 1846

1'8
 7-5-7
 31
 03
 30
 41
 41
 17
 31

88
 61'6 0-91
 129 26
 61'6
 29
 01 = 8
 80
 08 = 01 x 8

Cincinnati Dec 15th 1856

Dear Charlotte

I have waited week, after week, hoping each day would bring me a letter either from you or Malcolm, but not a word have I heard of your arrival, at Long Point, although I trust you are there, as Mr. F. wrote Ellen before I left Paul Orchard, that you were to start from Ann Arbor on the 22nd of October.

Mr. Mellen has been wishing to hear from Malcolm in answer to a letter which he gave Mr. Thompson for him, on his recent visit to L. P. was sorry that he did not see you, as he only missed you a day or two; you had he learned just before or Mr. Hancock had only left the Surveyor General the day before he arrived there —

I want to know how you like every thing, if you are comfortably fixed for the winter, if Malcolm is coming down in the spring, if I can do you all any good by returning with him, what he will require for housekeeping, if he wishes any of the

funds here appropriated to that purpose,
if I had best try and bring a good servant with
me &c &c.

Am very glad that Anna accompanied you,
she will be a great comfort and assistance this
winter. Our friends here are quite with on
the subject of Minnesota—many persons will be
there in the Spring, and I trust Mr Vanclave will
have his hands full of business—I pray that you
may all have good health—I shall spend
part of the winter with Mary—then return to
P Orchard and probably remain there until
March comes, the low water prevented my
coming down as soon as I intended and I
have only been here two weeks—we have now
got down a few boats, and the prospect is now
fair for coal, had the water not risen, there would
have been great distress among the poor for fuel,
as coal has been $17\frac{1}{2}$ cts a bushel.

Ellen and our dear children were very well
a day or two since—she is a dear good aunt
to them—Mr Mellen is now in New York, will be

back in a few days, is anxious to spend Christmas
at home—Ellen will be much alone this
winter, as Mr M's business, will take him all
over the country, he thinks that he will be at
St Pauls, if so, very likely you will see him at L^g
I need not say keep you & your family, (and trust
all events in the hands of ~~an~~ Allwise and ~~all~~
Allmerciful God,) for I well know that your
trust is in Him, and that He will not fail you
all friends here send much love—give my
best love to Mr Vanclave, Malvina, and all your
little people—also remember me to Mrs Thompson
and Malvina's family, little Chick was very glad
to see Aunt Charlotte, I hear that he is a fine
boy, and that every body loves him, grandmama
will be very glad to see all the little people—
now do answer me as soon as possible, you don't
know how anxious I am to hear from you all,
and if some of you do not write, I shall
begin to think that you don't care to see me in
the Spring—May God preserve you & give
ever yours
Affect
Mother

G. A. Clarke

[July 26, 1853?]

Peach Orchard July 26

My dear child,

Your letter came June 29 last week and I was very thankful to hear that you were all well, and I think that our great disappointment will turn out for our good, altho' we cannot think so now. I am very sorry that you have to struggle with so many, and great difficulties and know that if I was there, I could be a great comfort in various ways, let us be patient a little, if our lives are spared I still hope to see you - shall you not get through this summer from Rock River? Calcutin would certainly pay all expenses - I cannot be reconciled to your working so hard, it must not be -

Aug 23rd

My dear child I had written this far and added before finishing my letter, for Mr. Miller to return from Cincinnati hoping that he could know of some persons going to

[July 26, 1852]

attendants by whom I would send your
servant - he tells me that there is some
prospect, or that there has been a proposition
made, to induce 50 Whelan family to settle
there; he will know more about it when he
goes next to Cincinnati's friends. This, as you
can get a good servant from them - I want
you to write how you are doing and what
I can do for you. I shall not be satisfied
until I hear that you have some one to take
some of the hard labor - after you have let
me know about every thing - is Anna to be
married this fall? Should she remain at home
this winter, it would be a great comfort to
you, which will I know reconcile her to present
disappointment - how are Lizzy, and Ellen, coming
on? I hope that they do all they can to lighten
your tools, the boys will soon be able to do
great ~~well~~ many things - I trust Mrs. Brewster has
sent the \$4 blue money to Mrs. Brewster and
that he is going on with the money - my love
to him, and all the children - not forgetting

Bliss; tell him that it is a great comfort to
me to know that he is near you. - Do you hear
from Alexander? how early in the spring did he not
expect to come down - we are all well, Miss Liza
and a Miss Thomas have been spending ten days
with us, will return to Cincinnati in a day or two.
Ellen is very poorly, and is a fine
looking child - the dear one lost a child about
30 months ago, and ^{is} ~~has~~ been very ^{ill} since, but
is now recovering -

Aug. 30th

Dear Charlotte a man starts for Cincinnati
tomorrow, who will mail this letter there, and
I hope you may get it sooner in consequence
since writing this above I have seen accounts
of the Indians being troublesome in your vicinity
but, knowing how these accounts are exaggerated
I hope it is the case now; still cannot help feeling
uneasy and anxious, do write and let me
know the truth, is St. Ripley rejoined? if
Anna is not married this fall, I think you will
feel that it is better, she is so young only 16 last winter

another year ^{she} will be better able to arm herself for
great life battles, and overcome the many trials,
which the best and happiest must expect, in this
uncertain, and dying world —
Mr. Allen is now at the mouth with Mr.
Stewart, they have commenced a
survey preparatory to making Mackinac
navigation — good bye my dear child, when
Miss Appleton ^{left} the promise (that if she heard
of any man and woman, one, at both, who would
go to Long Point, to go to Mr. Lincoln, and
draw from him, on my account, money sufficient
to bear their expenses, should any responsible
persons be going, that I might feel certain that
these persons, or person, would reach you —
give my love to all; tell Anna that I still
hope to be present when she is married —
our dear little folks are all well, Ellen sends
much love, we have been hoping to hear from
you a long time, you are so busy, but Anna
could write sometimes — may Heaven protect
you always ever —
Your affect. mother
Mrs. Chapman

Peach Orchard Aug 24th
[1853]

Dear Charlotte,

your letter of June 13th was recd. only
6 days ^{since} in consequence of our uncertain Mailman
you have before this seen Ellen, but I fear that she only
made a flying visit, don't you think them wile^d to
think of going up with Malcolm? I am only reconciled
because I think it will be a great thing for Malcolm
to have the advantages of Mr Mellen's experience, in
his new settlement — I fear little Ellen, will re-
hardly be happy the whole winter in that wild
country, and hope that Malcolm will conclude to
send her back with Mr Mellen, did Thos^{er} consent
to go with his father? — I have a great deal to
say and much to hear, but hope to see you some
time in Sept. and then we can talk over every
thing; Ellen wrote from Cincinnati that she was
very homesick to get back to the children, and that
she would never leave them again; I hope however
that her journey, and seeing you, will do her good

Brother



Peach Orchard July 12th
[1855?]

Dear Aunt Charlotte

I have time to write a few lines
before Ellen leaves, and tell you that I want to
see you very much, and all my cousins —
Aunt Ellen says that I may come sometime and
make you a visit — I have written little Penny
about my little birds, and now I will tell you,
we had three beautiful birds, and the other
night when the cages were brought in, one was
dead; I know you will be sorry to hear this
I am very sad about it — how is Lizzie? give
my love to her — Uncle Miltom says that your
baby is very pretty and very smart, I should
like to see him, Ellen will tell you how
very sweet our "baby Belle" is —
I would like if you can, that you would
make us a visit, and bring all my cousins
we could have a pleasant time and all
sorts of fun — I have a great many plays
— things and it is very pleasant here in summer

Grandma brought me from Cincinnati
a Battle-axe, and Shuttlecock - but I fell
off the ~~house~~^{bureau} and broke my arm and so
it has been well only a short time, so that
I can't play much yet. Ellen can tell
you all about Pack Orchard -

give my love to Uncle Wandleve when
you write - and give very much love
to all my cousins -

Your affectionate Niece
Mary Ellen

him was a good plan - Lucie send a
(tip) to Aunt Charlotte and love to cousins -
Our little Malcolm is the most mischievous
child that I ever saw, and keeps us in
constant fear, lest he should drown, or
otherwise destroy himself -

do answer this as soon as rec'd tell
little Ellen and Horace that I think of
them a great deal, and that they must
try and be as good as possible, and be
very good children -

Mr. Mellen's business was never so prosperous,
the rich stockholders, have bought out the
small men - and are going to work
building up a town; the grape is to
cultivated very extensively, and the
hill sides are now being cleared for
that purpose - We had a delightful
Sunday school celebration last week, and
it is pleasant to see how readily the
natives enter into all projects, which are
likely to be for their best good - Mr.
M. will bring from Cincinnati a teacher
well recommended a lady - in about
two weeks - we are to have a church
built this fall - also a library and reading
room - all supported by a small tax

upon each individual working here, as many
of the people of the neighborhood as have a
desire to reap the benefit -
Peach Orchard, July 22nd

Dear Charlotte,

Your letter to Ellen of the
2nd she intends answering to day, they
were all gone to Sunday school, and as
I am not well enough to go out; have
concluded to say a few words to you, Mr.
Mellen expects to leave for Cincinnati again
tomorrow, or the next day - I wish to
tell you how he feels about Sam, that if
you hear any thing from him, or in any
other way favorable to him, you would
let us know immediately - he thinks
that he has not written the true reason
of his dissolving the partnership into which
he entered; that is, that he has not been
perfectly candid; as to his failure, that
would be of no consequence - and
if he has done him injustice (by this
suspicion) he is willing, and would be
glad to aid him, in every possible way -
then he thinks it looks badly, and has
been a great affliction to poor Ellen, that
he did not, before going to California,
make his mother acquainted with the
engagement entered into with Ellen; that
she might have had the consolation of

but my paper is full good bye
from Mother
C. 2nd

hearing from her - from his sister she has only
sent one letter, and no answer to the
paper sent her ~~announcing~~ containing the
notice of dear Belle's death - Sam's letters
to Ellen have been much more frequent of
late, and are even more affectionate than
heretofore, he will be here (at least so he
writes) certainly in Aug^t and if he
is able to give a fair account of himself
all will be well yet, that he has been
unfortunate will make no difference -
I thought that ~~if~~ he might possibly see you
before coming to Peach Orchard, and wished
you to know what I have written, before
seeing him - My health is not very
good, but I think could I be relieved
from my anxiety about Ellen, I should
be well again, poor child, she has
had a sad life for the past two years -
pray God that these great afflictions
may be blessed to ~~her~~ present and
eternal good - I am very thankful
to hear from Ellen's letter that you are
all getting on so nicely, that Mr B -
her employment, and that all the children
are trying to improve their opportunities,
may they all live, and become useful members

of society - We have Mr's Book, Mary writes
that "It is well got up, and will sell well" -
remember me to all my Ann Arbor friends -
Should Mary get safely through her confinement,
and all other matters turn out as favorably
as I hope, you may expect to see us in
Sept. probably - I believe that I mentioned
in a former letter, that Mary intends going with
me to Winesburg -

You have dear Belle's picture I know that
it is a great comfort to you - dear child, it is
very like her, except that serious expression,
which was lost when she smiled, ^{but} looks so sadly
in the picture -

Our dear little Belle is one year old to day,
and is very well, and improving fast,
poor little thing, she smiles as happily as
other children, and will never know her great
loss - You are remembering that it is also
your brother's birth day, and we thinking of
and praying for, both the absent Malcolms
may God have them in His holy keeping -
I wish that you were here, that we could
have a long talk, but that may not be at
present - Give grandma's love to all the
children - Mr Lincoln, and Ellen, think that
Malcolm's prospects are better than they have ever
been, and that your Malcolm going with

Peach Orchard Jan'y 4th 1840

My Dear child,

How have you received the sad news which
was wafted to you ~~to~~ among the last sighs of
the expiring year — Our Belle has gone — dear mother
gone — our last consolations ~~to~~ us all — "tell Sister Charlotte
that she is a Christian and I die happy, weep not for me"
"say to Sister Mary that I die happy in the Protestant faith,
and that I wish her to return to the bosom of the Church
of our Mother" — to every one she ~~has~~ some words of affectionate
farewell — I hope that you will be able to come with Mary
to Peach Orchard. I have so much to tell you that will be
for our mutual consolation, and I humbly trust improvement.
I cannot write much now, I have been trying all the past week
for strength to attempt a letter — I cannot now trust myself
with the recital of what you so much wish to hear — Mary can
tell you many things, and that every alleviation which was
possible under the circumstances ~~has~~ ^{has} been rendered through
the kindness of friends; I hope that ~~that~~ we are not ungrateful.
Ellen has been sustained wonderfully; and attended to almost
every thing — since our return she has ~~been~~ quite sick, and
we have ^{had} much anxiety for her, but to day she is much
better — Our little Belle is not very well, I hope if
it is the will of God, that she may be spared to us —
Your last letter speaking of your own and the health of your
dear family, and improvement of your children, gives me great
pleasure — tell Ellen and Horace that dear Aunt Belle
left word that they were to spend next summer at Peach
Orchard — just the same as if she were alive and that

they must be very good — and that none of us must be sad;
for she was happy, and that we must enjoy all the pleasant
things by which we were surrounded, for she should be with
us; and that she would pray for, and watch over us —
you should read her letters to Mr. Mellen from the times
of their marriage to the last, written a short time before
her death (every one of which he has preserved) and you
could judge of the perfect ^{purity} of her thoughts and actions —
We daily pray to submit as Christians should under this heavy
bereavement — and I trust that through the mercy of God
one may be able to turn from the heart "Thy will be done"
indeed — when I think of her sweetest and best friend
death, I feel that it would be very selfish to wish her
back — every thing she just upon seemed to afford her
unmolested satisfaction, your sweet visit of which she often
spoke, and dear childrens which she enjoyed so much —
then we had some pleasant strangers in July, whose society
she enjoyed so much; and at the last she hath her
dear Husband with her, who has usually been from home
at this time of the year —

Fanny will remember her dear Aunt-Belle, and always try
to be very good, and make dear father and mother happy and
God will bless her — the little boys with I trust grow to be good
and useful men — Anna as a sweet good child, it was quite
a comfort to meet her in Cincinnati — Belle said of her father
"how glad I am that he made us this visit, dear Malcolm, he is
a dear brother, I hardly knew him before." — it will be sad
news for the poor child may our Heavenly Father sanctify
it to his everlasting good —

We were all glad to hear that dear Mr. Bailey was well,
and would like very much to have that promised visit —
I trust that the ~~same~~ sacred engagements which he entered
into last winter are not forgotten, now that his
health is restored, and the world is opening so brightly
before him — he seemed to me of those "pure spirits"
like "our child-women" who have just gone home to God —
I shall ever hold him in sweet remembrance —

God bye my dear child, pray for
us — and may God sustain you, love to all

Your Mother with affection

E. A. Clarke

Mrs H. P. Cantlive

Ann Arbor

Michigan

like a wife to keep him, but from that
 time that had a day or two. The de-
 der child was born. I became a com-
 mitted to my absence. I have been
 to be an it. I have seen you many
 times. I have been to the office
 to be received from I put my
 own feelings. Every time I have
 I find it more & more painful.
 Can never get used to it. Pray
 for this my precious one. Please
 your prayers. May God bless, keep
 & comfort you. I give you Grace to
 love your dearly friends.

I suppose Malvern will return from
 Kentucky as soon as Saturday &
 I may expect to see him Monday
 or Tuesday night. I will try to see
 him at the cars. Good bye.

Rents are still up. I hear of one
 house 1/4 mile from my office that
 I can get for \$400. Too much for an
 poor man.

Tell Malvern that if he come to my office I will find an
 wife, he will find the
 in the back corner
 to wash the 44 etc.
 & he may expect
 we are soon.

Chicago July 17th 1858

Dear wife

I am expecting to
 commence some work for John
 Goodbridge this afternoon or to-
 morrow morning five miles out
 of town and will not be able
 to write to you before next Sat-
 urday. — I rec'd a letter this
 morning from William Davies
 & have just answered it, in-
 viting him to visit you at
 New Haven, and telling him
 he might attend the University
 there if he felt disposed &
 that he would be a comfort to help
 & you. I also told him that
 I succeeded in business
 here. I do & need an assistant
 & offer him a situation

that we be pleased & we'd pay
his expenses.

I wish you to write to
him if you find time, &
give him from you to com-
fort him.

On my return here I found
a letter from Anna telling me
she had rec^d my letter of 15.
She is a precious child.

John Woodbridge left last eve-
ning (or was to leave) with wife
& children for the East. I urged
him to make you a visit.

I am boarding at Dr. H. G. Allen
and Wells.

The weather was excessively
hot yesterday, from 97° to 100°.

I found it much more pleas-
ant in your room at home, than
in my office here.

Take good care of yourself.

Kiss my dear children for me.

Your own loving husband

Wm. B. Allen

I also told Willie Davies, that
if he wished employment at
Rt. 16, you wd assist him in find-
ing something to do.

I do want to see you & talk to you &
fold you in my arms & tell you how it
pained me to leave you & my dear child
on Monday & how hard it is for me to
bear the separation, & how I pray to
our Heavenly Father to straighten this
crook in our lot & give us grace to
bear it until he may be pleased to
even it. I trust Hailing that all will
yet be well with us, & that we may be
able to see a blessing in this affliction
and bless the hand that has corrected
us. — I trust Paul bears my absence

Monroe, Sabbath, Apr. 27th 1856.

My own darling wife

You see that I am still here. I hope

however that I will be able to finish my work
by Wednesday evening. I find that it is telling
work to lay out a town; it requires very accurate
measurements. Yesterday afternoon we were
interrupted by a hard shower, & wind show-
ers were frequently accompanied by the very high
wind, as was the case at this time. As yet there
is no house in my town, ~~the~~^{we} had no shelter
from the storm excepting a small platform
where the cars stop to land passengers. We sat
under that with the water dripping upon us,
about 2 1/2 hours, when the train came along &
brought us home. I was thankful for that poor
shelter, as it saved us from a complete drenching.
My neck & the back of my head got somewhat wet,
and during the night I awoke with a severe pain
in my face; I looked to God for aid, I had no medi-
cine remedy at hand; the pain soon left me & I slept
soundly, again, & awoke this morning perfectly
well. The Lord surely heard my cry & I can I trust

Am in all my afflictions. After I get through with
this work I know not what I am to do, but I will
commit my ways to my Heavenly Father & I be-
lieve in Him & am willing to trust in Him, to pro-
vide for me such employment as He knows will
be for our good & for his Glory. He is ever merciful
and gracious; He knows our infirmities & will pro-
vide for our wants. We do not look for wealth, but it
is our aim to pay all the debts we owe our fellow men,
to live honestly before the world that we may not bring
discredit on the Name of Christ, whose disciples we
profess to be, and to bring up our children in the fear
of the Lord. I pray God that we may soon be restored
to each other, & I trust that he will hear my prayer
& provide for me a way, by which I may earn my
honest livelihood & live with my wife & children.
What that employment may be I know not, I
trust that I am willing to do anything that may be
pleasing to him. I have great cause for thankfulness
that God has given me such good health, & strength
to labor, & that he sends me such good news from my
precious wife & children. May He continue to bless you
dearlings & may He ever take care of you & provide for you.

Wants. Here I am to day, spending a Sabbath at a
Station House on the Ill. Cent. R.R., with no church to attend,
no book but the Bible, (Could I have a better?) no friend
but my God, (what sh^d I want more?). I say no friend
the Station agent & his wife are very friendly & kind
and I don't ask for more attention, nor greater civility,
but my dear ones are far from me, & I miss them much
& feel lonely. It wd be a great comfort to me to sit by
your side & ^{have you} lean your head upon my bosom & tell me
all your joys & sorrows; To have my children round
me & take my little ones in my arms, and hear their
sweet voices; to hear Siggie brush my head, say
more read to me, Eddie & Sammy playing by my side
Paul pulling my whiskers, & all at times singing hymns
& praise to their God; None in the meantime sitting
quietly by in his usual manner. I hope the time
will soon come when we can again have Aunt
Malinda with us. Dear children how much I think
of them & pray for them & for you all. I sometimes fear
when I am writing that I am making you think I am
a far better man than I really am. My heart is
deceitful above all things and desperately wicked
& I am obliged to keep a constant watch over it.

I do not know that I ever spoke to you of my greatest
objection to Chicago. It is that your friends there are all
wealthy, and live and dress in a style that I
do not aspire to, & it might be a mortification
to us at times. This you see is my pride. I
never intend however that it shall stand in
the way of my going there to live if I find I can
by that means earn a livelihood for my fam-
ily. If our friends should think us too poor for inter-
mates, the town is large enough to give us a
wide berth. Chicago spreads over consid-
erable land. I have always been treated by
them with kindness, which I shall ever re-
collect, - notwithstanding doing very humbly ap-
peal. I do not dress as they do, but in
plain, I believe my clothing is not shabby.
I must soon however go into the extravagance
of a new hat & pair of pants, for these habiliments
are beginning to forsake me. Clothes will wear
out, if constantly used. My stockings also are
somewhat the worse for wear. If I were at
home, you would knit new heels on them. My
washwoman does not clean them, I must soon



Saturday June 2, 1844

My dear wife

I am of yesterday morning
in the morning I was
troubled in my mind. When I wrote
withholding my consent for letting
Malcolm go with his uncle, I suppose
that he was doing well in the printing
office, and as he had commenced
learning the trade and had now
got a fair start for his future life.
Last week told me he had been pro-
moted from his devilship, I thought
would be best for him to stick to it.
With regard to his doing well there, when
we are allowed to discontinue his
now when it is too late to let him
him go. I am in great anxiety
about him & fear that he is determined
to cause us much trouble.

When I get through with my work
here I shall be in a situation to do

Mail Road. I must take him with me.
I regret much that Malcolm
could not have spent a few days
more at Dan Abner. It was necessary
for me to be here on Monday & Tuesday
last. I have been very busy and
washed home to me in the evening. I hope
it is not always to be so, that I am to be
away from home when your brother
makes you a visit. I regret exceedingly
that I did not have seen him.

What does our boy expect to do?
He will not study & he will not work.
Does he expect to get a living from
the H. Company. I wish much that
he had seen that Co. No good will
come from it. Your next letter will tell
me what his difficulty has been at the
Quincy office. From his account the blame
is laid with Mr Cole. I cannot be
sure that Mr Cole is the only one that
does a great deal of Malcolm's possible error
a little occasionally. I cannot write more at
present. Love to all. Yours truly, H. P. V.

Chicago Friday Afternoon
Sept. 5. 1856

My own dear wife

In due time after bidding you
farewell, I took my seat in the W. & M. train and was
tripped along at a lively rate for Chicago. I had
a comfortable seat & in about an hour began
to doze, and catnapped it till morning.
We arrived here safely; I enquired on my way
to the office that the Dr had lost his little boy,
Charlie. He was buried on Wednesday.

Found a letter from you & also one from
Mr Sinclair, requesting information respecting
some lands in Wisconsin. Also letter from John.

Got letters of introduction to Mr John Wilson
of this place who gave me a letter to Mr Lewis
of Deerburg. Have made all necessary ar-
rangements to start for Deerburg this eve-
ning. My health is decidedly good; perhaps
never better. Feel strong & in good spirits.

It rained slightly this morning, just enough to lay
the dust. It was quite warm in the cars last night.
Although I had a good car sleep, it did not com-
pare for comfort, with the sleep I had the night be-
fore. Had nobody to comfort me.

It was really comforting to receive your let-

ter, notwithstanding it was a week old.
It was a first rate good letter, such as my
darling always writes.

When Mr M. sends that money, use all you
wish of it. I have enough to bear my expen-
ses & to meet emergencies. Sell ^{your} land if you
can, & I will pay you a good percentage, ten
per cent.

Good by. May God bless you darling,
and my dear children. Give them much
love. — Love our dear husband
J. H. Brown

John Woodbridge & Mr Williams passed through
Ann Arbor yesterday. Had been to Cleve-
land to see about their preacher, Mr Brown
Presbytery will not let him come.
Mr Richardson is well as usual.



Mrs. Charlotte O. Villae

Ann Arbor

Michigan

Chicago Friday May 16. 1856

My dear dear wife

It is very cold & dry for the season, but my heart was warmed this morning by the rec^d of your letter & Sippie's. They comforted me so much that I read them over three times before dinner, and having nothing particular to occupy me this afternoon, I want to chat with you a little. We may talk over our affairs, our troubles, & minor annoyances, our blessings & comforts, and the goodness of our Heavenly Father. This morning I was anxious to know how I was to get instruments & men to do the work that I have engaged to do next week. I spread my wants before my Father in Heaven & then went out to look. I found the man of whom I had the transit I used in laying out the City of Quincy, paid him \$3.00 for the use of it & engaged it again. If I have much work to do, I must raise the funds in some way to purchase instruments. — I then went to look for men, and the first place I stopped to enquire heard of two, but have not yet seen them. I spent much of yesterday in inquiries. I think we sh^d ask direction of God in every little matter in which we engage. He will

hear our prayers & bless us. But when we pray we must
also work. — I was quite amused with the account
you gave of the use you had made of the money
you had rec^d from him. It appears to me that you
can make \$50 go further than any body else. I
expect out of the next remittance you receive
you will pay all your debts & have money to lend.
I hope Hannah is satisfied, & that she will hence-
forth keep her distance. This morning I asked J.
W. Jr. what he thought of Capt. Russell. He said he
was a scamp. I then enquired of Mrs R. He said
report said, she was a ——. You see how
they are esteemed here. Mrs R. is in N York & does
not live with her husband. — I fear Hawkins
is making his family very miserable, I feel sorry
for his wife. He must be rolling down hill very
rapidly, if he has not already reached the bottom.
I must try to get hold of Traubens, Mr. King
I fear has written too much, made too large a book.
to sell well. — If you can sell the Compass, I
wish you to keep the proceeds for your own use.
I wd rather keep the Chain than sell it, but
suppose if any one bought the Compass he wd want

the Chain also. The Chain is worth \$3.00, I wd sell
the whole for \$25. I am not very anxious about
it however & when Mr W. is done with it, have
it brought home if he cannot sell it, and I will have
it brought here, it might be of use to me. — I have
not yet seen Phillips's tale, but see it advertised. One
of the papers gave it a left handed notice a short
time since. The Editor said he might say some-
thing more about it after he had read it. — I
sh^d like to get my flute of Daniels as he does not
appear to wish to purchase it. Shall I write to him.
I do not wish you to say anything to Hannah about
the remarks I made about her letters, it might make
her feel less happy. I suppose it is natural that she
cannot write to me with the same ease that she does
to you, and I am not at all jealous, but I sh^d like
to hear from her semi-occasionally. Say nothing about
it however, I know ^{her} time must be fully occupied.
Tell my dear Fanny that father thanks her for her
letter and wants her to pay particular attention to
her writing. I will try to answer it soon. — When
you write to Ed you must remember me to him.
I am glad to learn that Mark is doing well. Hope Ed is

also doing well; & all the family. I am glad to hear that
Ege thinks Anna a blessing in the house. Dear child
I wish much rather have her than than with those
who had so much to say about it. I do not like
to think of what we have had to endure from our
relations, it makes me feel bitter. — It was not
my intention to write much when I sat down,
but thought I wd say a few things before they wd
pass from my mind. — In one of my letters I told
you to give the Supervisor, & the Collector, the same
list of our property that I transmitted last year. If
I am a resident of Chicago, as I may consider
myself, they are not entitled to any more than a list
of our personal property at Ann Arbor. That being
the case I know of nothing there that is taxable ex-
cepting the Piano, & ~~that~~ ^{that} cannot be valued in as-
sessing at more than \$50. If it be necessary for
me to make the statement you can send the blank
to me & I will fill it out. — Saturday. Rain, cold
& uncomfortable, for those who are not well provided
with clothing & shelter. My great coat adds much
to my comfort, as I sit here without a fire. —
I do not like to call myself a resident of Chicago while
my wife & children are residents of Ann Arbor, but as
I am doing business here, and if prospered calculate
to remain here, have my name in the City Direc-
tory; & to vote here in the fall, — I suppose I wd strictly
speaking be considered a resident. — It will make no
difference that I know of in my taxes, as my debts are greater than my
income.