



Horatio P. Van Cleve and
family papers.

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Cincinnati May 10th 1854

Dear Charlotte

You cannot think how much I am disappointed that I cannot see you this spring. I had made all my arrangements to spend the summer at least with you and particularly was anxious to be at Anna's wedding; but my health is not very good that is I am well, as well as most persons of my age, but any extraordinary exertion, or anxiety overcomes me, and it takes a day or two for me to recover, and feel like myself again. Mr. Mellen has written Mr. Fancher his reasons for not moving to Long Prairie this spring, and Charles's arrangements are not exactly what they were when he left you - another year should all things be favorable and my life spared I shall certainly see you - from all that I can learn there will be a large emigration to the west this spring, and you will soon be surrounded by neighbors - and very glad that Mr. Fancher's prospects are so good for business and trust that you will have no cause to regret

your removal — we have had a very pleasant
visit from Malcolm, could you have been here I
should have been quite happy — Mary sends Anna
a piece of linen, and I send a piece of cotton,
~~and~~ how much we would like to be with you in
Sept. — the shoes which I send by Malcolm with I
hope fit you — the letter which you speak of as
having written to Punch Orchard, I have not recd
so that all I know of your arrangements, Mr M.
learned from that while in New York —

Ellen will add a line, she has a fine
little girl six weeks old named for herself —
we expect to have here for Punch Orchard
on the 8th Friday —

Dear Sister on your account you cannot
tell how sorry I am we are not
coming west you must not feel so
much disappointed. We all seem to
think that Mr Vanhook will do well. I should
like so much to see him married.
I do not send her anything now but will
try to have something sent for her.

this fall can she not come & spend
her honeymoon with us we should be
delighted to have see both Mrs & her
& our country is very beautiful and
in September you have already heard
of the birth of a little girl she is
as black & bright as could be expected
give my love to Mr Vanhook & to his
I have nearly written to him several
times this winter but I am so lazy
about writing & ought to be ashamed
practically when I am so much of
receiving letters. Little Malcolm has not
been well this week but is getting better
& tomorrow we start for home much
to the joy of all of us Ma goes with
us you must excuse me for writing so
little but I am so busy packing when
we get home I will write again love
to all Cliff included

Yours Ellen

I am listed I put a couple of pairs of little knickerbockers
into Malcolm's trunk they were made for my baby when
it was a young one. I think she will like them. I am
afraid I am a little out of breath.

Dear Chamberlaine Malcolm leaves for St Louis
this evening, two or three gentlemen from this place
are coming to Long Prairie, leave the middle
of this month, Malcolm thinks that he shall reach
home before they arrive there, has purchased
groceries and other goods here which ^{are} already
shipped or will start tomorrow for St. Pauls —
give my love to Mr Vanclieve and all the
children, I send some trifles by Malcolm to the
little ones — good bye for this time, I
hope to live to visit you may the blessing of
our good God. ever rest upon you, and all
dear to you — —

Your affect. Mother

B. F. Clarke

Malcolm left last evening Mr and Mrs Woodworth
are here, they rode out with us and took tea
we leave this evening, you don't know how sadly I feel
this morning that Malcolm has gone, and that I shall
not see you keep up your strength for my dear child
and all will be well at the last. Mother



A. P. Van Cleave Esq.
Long Prairie
Care of John Gibson
Swan River
Minnesota.

Granville Sep. 18th

My dear cousin

Your very kind letter was received a few days since, and I assure you I was extremely glad to hear from you. For I believe - cousins though we are - we had never written to one another, and then I think it was the first time I had heard from any of you since I returned from the South. I am very much to blame for not having written much before this, but then I hardly knew when to direct my letters, and then time has passed so rapidly, that though I have been continually intending to write, I have never done it.

I fear an account of the way in which I spend my time would be very uninteresting. For it is nothing but the same dull routine of daily duties, to be performed day after day. At nine o'clock every morning we go to college, and spend three hours in reciting. We then spend the remainder of the day at lectures, a great part of the night in attempting to get our lessons for next day. We do all study that much, it is only

the industrious part of us; for there are
some who don't study at all. of course I will
acknowledge I know how they spend their time
best - you might think me one of them.

I should indeed be very glad to know how
you pass your time. I suppose you have plenty
of ^{fun} hunting and fishing, and that you know
how to catch buffalo and wild-horse.

I should think indeed such a life would be
perfectly delightful.

We ourselves have had some right
severe weather, but hardly so cold as you
had. The lowest point that the thermometer
~~has~~ stood at here, that I have heard of,
was 24° below zero. And really I do not
suppose it was hardly that cold; our ther-
mometer was a few degrees above that.

But I thought that was cold enough, and had
no room for it to be any colder. We heard
here of a very severe snow-storm they had in
Iowa, and in which it was said a good
many lives were lost. We have very pleasant
weather now. Write soon and let me hear
from you and believe me truly your cousin
William M. Davies.

My dear uncle.

I feel indeed I am deserving
of much blame, for not having written
sooner. But I hope you will forgive me
without requiring of me a long defence, and
I promise - if I can promise any thing
certainly concerning myself - that I will
write more promptly in future.

I am truly grateful to you for your
kind offer, but I think that now I have
returned and commenced again my studies
if I ever expect to finish my education, I
ought now to remain until I do. I should
indeed above all things like such a life as
you mentioned though it might have goats
and magpies, for I always did delight
in running about through the country, and
never could endure confinement; but yet
I think, having already been thrown back
a year by going South, that I might if
possible stop no more until I am through.

I have not spoke to aunt Mary about
it, but I have no doubt but that she will
think thus. She did not want me to
have stopped last summer, but I would

as I never expected to come
here again. for reasons I believe I gave you
at the time, but I was obliged to return
and being here was I suppose very easily
persuaded to start to College again! But
yet I am indeed thankful to you for your
kind offer, and know I should much prefer
performing hard work though it be to being
confined in a room. And then I should
be very glad to have an opportunity of seeing
you all, which I do not suppose I will
otherwise be able to do.

I suppose you will not ^{the death} think of
Uncle Joseph Selin, whom I probably you
knew. He had been in rather delicate
health for near two years, but had not con-
sidered him in any way dangerous. He was
then living in Bloomington Ill. but when
he was taken sick immediately came to
St. Louis.

Please excuse this letter as I can scarcely
make any new mark.

Give my love to all. Sister is well
and sends much love.
Your aff. nephew. W. W. Davis

Mr. Horatio Van Cleave
Long Prairie
Todd Co
Minnesota

Louis G. W.

Dec. 2nd 1838

Dear Uncle Horatio

I am indeed gratified by an ever increasing interest in you which before this.

But I was very anxious when I rec^d your letter to visit you, and determined to do so if possible. I took your letter up to Mr. Packard, and he also spoke of coming to see me. But I was obliged to visit our farm, and had some trouble doing it and at that time I expected to have gone to college. I had but little time left.

However I afterward changed
my intention of going to
college this fall - as I found
my health so much improved
by my summer work, &
thinking I had better come
from Nord. Study another year.
And lately - since that time -
I have been expecting letter
to come to you. She is
very anxious to come and see
Abrae and all her friends.
But I fear they must be
not - Aunt Mary seems un-
willing that she should leave.

As I will not go to college
I will most probably remain
here all winter. The farm
needs much repairing, and

I can have it done with much
less expense by being present
than by merely ordering it done.
Besides I can rid myself
self. And that getting in
an order will be my
chief occupation this winter.
I expect to read and study
some. Last winter I thought
to have been here, but I
did not give me exer-
cise enough. I don't sup-
pose I will complain of want
of exercise this winter if I
chop wood, haul coals & make
fence. I am very desirous
however of finishing my ed-
ucation, as I feel I am
wasting time very precious in my
short life.

But my letter is entirely concern-
ing myself.

How is Malcolm & how does
he like California. And how
is Miss Anna & where is she
And how are Anne Charlotte &
the children. I wish indeed
you could make us a visit this
winter. As always with con-
cerning you & so. be extremely
glad to see you & so. Mrs. Garrison
I am sure you will be welcome.

We have been for some time
having winter weather. It has
been driving hard all day
& is now quite cold.

Mr. & Mrs. Garrison send
their love to you & Anne Char-
lotte. Believe me most truly
Yours &c.

Wm. Brewster

Long Prairie May 25th 1858

Prof. E. A. Johnson,

Dear Brother,

I am quite mortified to learn by a letter from Anna that that dilatory man C. H. Van Cleve has not yet answered the letter you wrote to him last fall and which I duly put into his own hands. I said so much to him, and his wife on the subject that I did suppose he would immediately attend to it. I hurried through Michigan so rapidly that I could only spend a few hours in Ann Arbor so that it was impossible for me to write to you from that place. I supposed of course it should be attended to, and when I reached home I found so much to do, that it seemed impossible to snatch a moment's time for writing. You don't know how ashamed we both feel of Hordt's conduct it is highly culpable. His brother is writing to him now urging him to attend to the business if he has not already done so. If all our efforts fail I don't know what is to be done next, but I can only hope he will come himself and attend to it. I hear of you and yours through Anna

and the New Haven continued occasionally.
When my daughter wrote last she was just
starting to Williams Bridge where I doubt
not she had a pleasant time - I rejoice that
she is able to become acquainted with her
relations and connections - Our oldest son
went to New York some four weeks since
rather unexpectedly. You may have seen him
he is quite a stranger to all his eastern friends
but is anxious to know them. He could
tell Alfie some wonderful Indian stories
and recount to him his hair breadth es-
capes from the Buffalo etc - Now to the
dear children, I have had to describe them
to their uncle and cousins, over and over
again. Although I have never met your
wife, I feel as if I knew her because she
loves and loves dear Maggie, and I
esteem her highly because she so well and
faithfully fills her place. Present my kindest
regards to her. If you should, by some mi-
serable interposition, hear from Boston
please let us know in some way.

Horatio sends love.

Your affectionate sister
C. C. C. C.



Brooklyn Oct 26th 1857

Mrs C. A. Johnson,

Dear Sir,

I am spending a few days in Brooklyn with my friend Mrs Thomson. I should be very happy to see you if your duties will permit you to call. Anna, as you will see by the enclosed card, is married, and her future home will be Brooklyn, so that I trust you will see her frequently -
My kind regards to your wife, and
my dear love to the children -

Truly yours C. O. Van Cleve

No 10 Hight Street
Brooklyn

Charlotte O. V.

Mr & Mrs E. A. Johnson

With letter of

Oct 26, 1857

from C.O.W.

Mr. & Mrs. Mortimer Thomson.

Anna G. Van Cleve.

Ypsilanti Nov 15th 1857

My Darling Children,

I arrived here
safely yesterday at noon and go
to Ann Arbor with Auntie and
Mary and Ethel to-morrow after an
early breakfast. I had rather a tedious
ride but got along without any
trouble meeting friends as usual,
all the way. Soon after most left
me on the cars a gentleman seated
himself beside me and began to
talk to me. He proved to be a
former partner of Mr William
Lizzie's husband. He talked of you
my boy and said Mrs William
spoke of you with much affection -
Oh my dear children when I parted
with you last Thursday I felt as if my
heart was all compressed to half
its size, and then when all the fel-

ings were intensified and inex-
pugnably sharpened, it seemed that
suddenly it received a ~~terrible~~ dringful
blow that thrilled and agonized
it terribly. But then I thought
how happy you were and how
happy you would be all winter
and all your lives long, and I
washed down my pain and
brought of your prospects - This
will be a great comfort to me my
children and do not grieve about
me. I shall get along nicely and
shall find so much to do that
I shall not be lonely, I shall
write a long long letter when
I get home. All then send love
Mary, Betsey, Mrs Merritt, Adeline,
Auntie, Em Goddard Saml's Lar,
John and all. I came from Lexington
with that charming Dr Gunn and
didn't we talk about my children?

He promised to write to you to the
to-day and he has done it I doubt
not. He has had no card, he says
I know he sent him one, when you
answer his letter send him another
don't fail to answer his letter.
Mr Tens is in New York engaged
in some seminary, if you could
find him out how pleasant
it would be to take report of
him again - The book Sophie
wrote is called the Rufus family
it is a history of our family -
Do inquire for it and send it
to me if you can find it. Love
to Sophie and Ed. Write to me imme-
diately without fail. I am dying
to write you a good long letter
and shall do so as soon as I
reach home. God bless you and
your children. Kiss each other for
me two or three times and believe
me your loving mother C. A. W.

Rec'd Nov 20th
Answered
November 23rd
1857

Leicester, May 15th 1858

Dear Charlotte

I send the enclosed draft which is the balance coming upon your proportion of the Michigan Land. This will bring probably a little more than its face at St Paul at least its face. It costs me more. But this is the only safe and sure way of sending money. It is now in my hands a short time as I did not know exactly what you desired a letter from New York that you needed it and that it better be got once sent. I had a great deal of trouble with the man to whom the sale was made to get the money & he refused to pay in time. That caused the long delay. Mr Mellor has not been able to get his share for his children yet. and I fear he will have some trouble about it. Mr Mellor is not now here. He will know before very long whether he will be released from Sanchy or not. He will be free in three or four years. If he could please get away and go to Long Prairie. Mr Clarke arrived yesterday. I could not talk with him. I do not know what his plans are about his children. I only knew that he can stay here a few days as he has to go directly up into the upper Missouri by the lake. It will be impossible for him to see you before he leaves or to see Ellen or Mr Mellor the last time so soon. You will hear from him soon. I heard him speak of

being quite sick with fever. but he has not observed any thing as yet. He is badly bad times. He is in the 17th of the month. He is in the 17th of the month. He is in the 17th of the month.

Mrs. Horatio P. Van Cleave
Long Prairie, Old Norway Co.
Settlement near Swan River
Minnesota.

Long Prairie March 16th 1857.
Dear Aunt

The clock has just struck
10 P.M. & I am reminded by the
girls that I have a letter to
write to you. I have not your
letter before me & have not time
to look it up, but a sort of
general idea of its contents,
and I will
say in answer to it,
Yes.

The girls, that is, the
girls say you intend
to visit next summer. I shall
be very happy to see you & will
be much pleased in show-
ing you the Sioux.

We have been so busy out of
the world that we intend to write
to all creation to come to see

us, but from that out half will
be able to make so long a journey.
If you do not come soon and write
a book, I think it will be too late
for I have already made proposals
to my wife, not to marry me, but
to write. I am so poor that I in-
tend to make one good spec-
out of it. Do not need think
of writing ~~after the book is pub-~~
lished.

We have had a jolly time this
week all to ourselves. When
we are sleeping for the night
do not trouble ourselves even
about closing the window - our
tires for two good & substantial
reasons. In the first place
we have none of the ^{proper} people
no passing in the streets, for there
are neither streets nor people

near us, so that we can go out doors
I believe I prefer.

P. S. Ten o'clock is my bed time.
P. S. again. Do not tell the girls that
I call them girls for they feel very im-
portant.

Another P. S. I should write I tell you
all the news but the girls have
written it all up. I left none for
you. I suppose you will be obliged to
ask all soldiers to believe you
are sick for a week to get time
to read their letters.

Last P. S. Very affectionately
Yours

St. P. Van Cleave
to your mother, I tell.

Long Prairie May 17th 1858

My dear Mother

Your half page in Mary's letter was
very kind. It made me more than ever
desire to see you all and have a part
with you. Since you write that letter you
had a pretty fair delegation from Minnesota
going with you, and have probably learned
something from them with regard to us out here.
Malcolm & Cliff were highly pleased with their
visit in Cincinnati and I hope they are going
home and doing well. I am glad to hear of their
well. Did you find Malcolm much cheaper
both he and Cliff were more so when you saw
them last. From letters rec'd from them at New
York, we think it probable they are both going
to California. Mr. Thomson has written and
asked for them both to come. He has been here
nearly two years and is doing very well. He
is a very capable and energetic man. I think
in a few years. It would distress me much to have
Malcolm so far from us, but I trust it will
all be ordered aright. He will depend upon
the action of Mother and Mr. Corbin a
gentleman who visited us last summer
and whom we can see a very good friend.

If they go, they will send me one or three days, so
that Mother would not have time to get
word from me in regard to her matter.
He had letters from Brooklyn containing very
cheering intelligence. Mark is doing very well.
has given up the Penguin and turned his
attention solely to book writing at which he is
doing greatly. Still retaining his situation
in the Tribune. His income now is very good
and is constantly increasing. They are very
pleasantly situated in a new house belong-
ing to Mr. Brinley. Ed Keller is with them
and always will be. Mark thinks he has
the dearest and best wife in the world and
she is quite sure that her husband's great
work is hard to find. That Thomson and
Gorman get along very pleasant, they and I have
great reason to be thankful that my dear little
is so happily settled in life. She keeps up a very
pleasant intercourse with her New Haven
conduct exchanging letters etc. also with
her dear Margaret's husband who you may
know is professor in the New York University.
Besides these she has a number of very pleasant
acquaintances and Mark writes me that since
she has been so much company her character and
wisdom is nearing off rapidly. I wish you could
make them a visit they would be much pleased.

and I know you would be gratified. I am not
troubled about Malobus children, but I
have been thinking to-day that perhaps Mr. Lyman
would be willing to take them. I have not
mentioned the subject yet for no one here
has as yet expected to leave Long Prairie.
I think it would be comfortable and pleasant
home for the little folks and do not think that
Lyman and his wife would make any
objection to it, if they agree with the
other as to terms. I do not think they would
help them for what we have done for
know they could not afford it here where
prosperous and happy thing. I think
but he would have to give more than
he did with them and I think he could agree
with Mr. Lyman as far as any one else.
He and his wife I think are good conscientious
people although his manners are not pleasing
and he is not a great favorite, but that will
not interfere with his doing his duty by the
children and I have no one to whom I
would rather resign them. I have them very
dearly at heart, and could not bear to have them
placed with any one who would not take good
care of them. Mrs. Lyman is teaching school here
now and is well calculated to instruct the
children as they get older. Nathan has learned to

and the words of three letters, and is an
important suggestion. Mr. Seymour has
been kind enough to write to me and
ask me to write to him. I have not thought he would
have forgotten the arrangement for his
share of the children's money. I am
glad to hear you are pleased with the
new, useful shape they left us at home.
I am very glad to hear of your children. Horace was
very attached to art, and it will be a
great loss to him. I am sure you will find any one whom
you like better than his mother. Ruth was his
favorite. Let them like for me. A Mr. Parker
of "Fanny Fern" author of the life of
himself, a friend of Mr. M. and an acquaintance
of mine, wrote to me lately that he
of that fashion, having heard that I
sent him years ago, and preparing to write
life. I replied to him and told him all I
could of the Gen. and his wife. He wishes me
also to address any others who might be able to
tell him anything more, and he is sure to
I answered that you might remember some thing
which I have forgotten. You know your own
in Kentucky and don't be surprised if you
don't know him. I told him the story of that
the paper to his guests at the time, and
I gave him the account of her marriage
and its relation to me, by Mr. Harriet's mother.
I gave at the same time her address. When you
tell your son to her and the children
to Mr. Mullen. Write to me soon again. I
shall need to hear from you again. I
send love to all. God bless you very
Love aff. daughter to all

Long Prairie April 17th 1858

My Precious Child

This letter will be handed to you by your
brother Cliff or your brother Malston who will come upon
you somewhat unexpectedly, and will no doubt be very
welcome. They will tell you all the news, and tell you
why we thought it best that Malston should leave
Minnesota. I am sure it will be the best thing he
could do, and I feel almost sure that he will do
well. You must have a letter from him and
Mother must see for he is his brother too. I am glad that
if there was any money from the Glendale via money
after paying the freight in the winter, he may
let Malston have it as he needs it. It will help
him pay his board until he gets his business and
will help him to get some new clothing etc.
Don't let either of the boys get jealous of the other, if
you remember their peculiarity - you will find Malston
somewhat green at first no doubt, but he is so foot
and will get over his awkwardness very soon. Father's health
continues very feeble, and he is becoming exceedingly
anxious to leave here and go to Brooklyn, thinking
that we can certainly do better there than here. The
boys will talk all our plans over with you, and I
need say nothing more of them here. Your father cannot
get well here, deprived of every comfort suitable for a sick

person, and if he becomes still worse so that he
can do nothing to support us, I must be somewhere
when I can do something, and that would be im-
possible here. The hope soon to get Mott's views and then
if he does not write anything discouraging, we shall
gather together what means we can, which will prob-
ably pay our expenses down, and keep us from being
dependent after we get down until we can find some
thing to do, and then we shall turn our backs on
some American business. The first guess is the Vic-
arage. The second is the residence of 100 for months
and we saw the advertisement in the Tribune with
Tremaine's name as editor. He is about it.

I have sometimes thought that Mott was shaping
things round to come over on a visit. If he felt
able, it would be delightful to have you come out
and have us all return together, but he may
not feel able to make so long a journey, and in
return and we hope to see you before a great while.
The week last night an extra Tribune from Mott
which was gratified us much. God's Spirit seems
to have been poured out in that quantity and
of such a verbal. The world has never heard before.
One remarkable feature of it seems to me the fact
that Jews and Catholics both joinably upon it
many of the former having come out and professed
Christianity. It seems like the dawning of that day
when all shall know the Lord from the least unto

the greatest and will not that be a blessed time.
The earthquake of mass and rumors of mass, the whirl-
wind of financial ruin have passed over this
earth, and God has not heard either in the
earthquake or the whirlwind but the still small
voice of his Spirit is breathed into the hearts of
men and see the effect of it. Let us be. Elijah
made ourselves in the mantle of him, and
standing in the mouth of the cave of undressing
or it may help self-righteousness and in return
up to the will of God concerning us. I leave it to you
if you feel God's Spirit stirring within you to
turn from it and determine by his help to
devote yourself to him and his cause
and forever to be a student of Christ.

I do so long for you and Mott to make a decided
move in this great matter, to come out and be
with all your hearts, Christians in the truest sense
of the word. If you love God and I think you do,
you need not be ashamed to own it. There is no
mystery in it, as some would have it appear.
It is simply taking God for your God, and best
friend; it is determining to act as he would have
you as nearly as you are able, and trusting him
entirely for time and for eternity. God bless you
both and enable you to do right. We pray for
you earnestly and I think God will answer our
prayers, and keep you from error and lead you

Recd. and is the 10/07

J. J. H. Thomson

Miss Anna H. Van Cleve
with Malcolm Clark.
Long Prairie.
Care of J. Spear Swan River,
Minnesota Territory.





Letter to Mr. [illegible]

Brooklyn. June 1. 1857.

My darling child.

Yesterday brought me a dear letter from you, a note from your mother, and a short note from Cliff - this is the first we have had since the 7th of last month. You tell us the news of your great disappointment about Mr. Mellen and your other friends. I feel that it must be a severe blow to your mother and father, and I could wish they might be spared it; but then when I think it all over, I am certain that it must be all right, although we cannot see it. I presume that letters are on the way from Minnesota to me, telling me what decision you have all come to respecting your coming down here, and I shall of course be exceedingly impatient until they arrive. I have been in a state of very great suspense for a long time, and I shall be really very glad when I know what I am to depend upon. It does not seem darling, as if I can give you up for another year, and yet I do not see but such will have to be the case if your parents do not conclude to send you down, for I do not see that I can possibly leave. My business affairs are becoming more and more complicated every week - I have about concluded a bargain for the Picayune, and the papers will probably be signed tomorrow - if so this will tie me closer than ever to New York for a few years until I can get the paper firmly established. I am buying in company with Bellem the artist who now makes the drawings for the paper, and who is a very fine man indeed - we shall each own half, and my department will be to edit it and write for it. As I shall probably also retain my situation on the Tribune, you will see that my hands will be pretty full. I think that a handsome

fortune can be made out of the Picayune in a few years, and I know that you will be glad to hear that I think of buying it.

The last steamer brought news from Father - he wrote a short letter - he is doing well, making money, and seems to be satisfied that his most prosperous days are before him. We did not hear from Monroe his brother, although we know that he accomplished half his journey in safety, because the steamer that took him to Aspinwall has returned. - If Cliff is still with you, tell him that Albert, our nephew, son of Mills Thomson, is now here at work in the Tribune office, and is boarding with us. They are tearing down part of the old Tribune office and building a new one, so that in a few months we shall have the finest office in the country.

Theodore Seymour and Adrian Scrantom have purchased a family grocery store at No 24 Carmine Street here, and gone into business for themselves. They, or rather Adrian, take possession tomorrow morning. Theodore is now in Michigan where he has gone to marry Miss Esther Foster, of Leis to whom he has been engaged for a number of years. He will probably return this week, and will board with us for a few weeks until he can prepare to keep house. I have no doubt they will do well and make a good comfortable living. They will want Cliff to go in with them as a clerk, and I presume he will consider it admirable to do so. It is a first rate business, and he could learn it in two or three years and then a small amount of capital would enable him to set up in business for himself. The man who had the stand which Theodore and Adrian have purchased, made a fortune there and retired worth \$20,000, so you see that it is a paying business when properly managed.

Mary Lib has moved over into Brooklyn, and now lives a short distance from us, in President Street, so that you can go and see her as often as you choose. Mother has been there once or twice and Lib seemed very glad to see her indeed - her baby has been very sick, so that she says she has not been able to come and see us, but she purports to in a short time -

Speaking of babies, reminds me of Fanny Kingsley - she has had to mean her youngster - and for what reason do you think? - because she is going to have another. Pretty quick work don't you think it? I hope however that this time she will not try to have it in seven months and only produce a three-pounder after all. I think Charles is doing pretty well for a bashful man, and that Fanny is getting along pretty well for a modest, retiring young lady. When you and I try our hand at having babies, I think we shall be able to show the people some model children, don't you deem? I hope that in a year from this time we shall have a little one, just by way of a beginning. I always laugh when I think of your little baby of your own - it will be so very funny, and I know that you will enjoy it so much that I long to make you such a present - Still, as I can't do it all alone I shall have to let you know something about it beforehand, which necessity will deprive me of the pleasure of giving you an agreeable surprise. What a proud little woman you will be when you first take your own baby in your arms and hold it up for me to kiss - do you think I'll kiss a baby? - Not a bit of it - - - there there don't cry, and perhaps I will, just to please you however, and not that I love the kid.

Tom and Cora are to be married in the Fall, and then I
suppose we shall have more babies, although they will have
quite a stock to begin with - Mollie Underhill gets
along pretty well, and her new baby is, so far as I know
a beauty, and the "very image of its father". However we shall
be better able to tell about that after we see it, which we
can't very well manage until it is born.

I have been looking over your dear pictures tonight, as
I do every night, and I feel more and more anxious
to see you - I shall be very much disappointed if you do
not come down with Cliff - I suppose that he must be
on the point of starting on his Eastern trip. If you do
not come with him, you must certainly come with
your mother, and then what a good time we will have.
Must you be glad, after so many years waiting and
wondering for both of us, to be at last happily married and
settled in life by your next birth-day?

Give my dearest love to your mother and father, and
kin all the children for me including Malcolm and
Cliff. I am exceedingly glad to hear that Malcolm is
determined to steady down and make a farmer, and I
hope he will do well. Bring down little Moll when
you come down, and I will take care of him, and bring
him up a reporter, and have him learn short-hand.
I wake up in the night and think of you by the hour, and
with that I could hold you in my arms and tell you how
well I love you - God bless you all, dear wife,
Love to all
Your loving husband, Mark Thomson.

Brooklyn January 24. 1857.

Last night when I came home from the theater I found long, delightful letters from you, from your dear mother and from Cliff. It was then after midnight, but I need not tell you that I sat down instantly and read them all through before I went to bed. It was two weeks since I had heard from you and I was getting a little homesick. I am very glad dear to find that you are all in good spirits, and that, although the weather is cold, and the roads impassable and things generally uncomfortable and unpleasant, you do not give up in despair or seem to get discouraged. That's right, keep up your spirit whatever happens, and hope for better luck in future. Next winter there will, I hope be no long distance between us, but that we can be where we can hug up close and defy all the cold weather in the world. I did not write to any of you last ^{week} night because Mother was at that time very sick, and I had too much to do. I had hardly got up myself when she was taken down with a very severe attack of varioloid, and has been down for nearly three weeks. She is now about well, and is able to be around the house, and oversee her work. You may judge that she is well when I assure you that she has had fair hand to hand battles with the kitchen girls, and that she insists upon my taking her to the theater tomorrow night. She is in fact as well as ever and is perfectly jolly and more. All the rest of us are well. We had letters from father by the George Lane, they were all dated at San Francisco where he was; he was to start next day for Monte Cristo. He was well and had had a good pleasant passage, which was all he wrote, except that he saw Charles Kellogg and Cal in that city, and dined with them. I have bought a beautiful photograph of Agnes Robertson, which I have framed, and hung so

that I can see it from my writing desk. It is
a very excellent likeness and I know you would
be delighted with it. I never look at it without
thinking of you, for I know how much you think
of the fair Agnes, "my Agnes" as Uncle Rich said.

You need not be jealous of me, for you know I can never
love any one else as I do you, and even if I was disposed
there is no chance in the present case, for the lovely lady
as you are always already provided for. I have also got a
picture of E. L. Davenport which is a very good one.

I am doing the same work as ever on the Tribune and
Picayune, except that I only write for the latter paper
once a fortnight. I have been writing some little articles
on the Witches of the City, which have kept and will
keep me very busy for a few days. I send you by
this mail some of the papers containing them. They are
making something of a sensation here. I do not write
you a long letter tonight my darling, because I am
tired of writing and am completely written out. For
the past ten days I have been compelled to write night
and day; I have been to the theatre every night
the past week, and have to begin again tomorrow night.

When you remember that after the performance is over I
have to go to the office and write a notice, and then go over
home, arriving there at 2, or 3 o'clock in the morning, you
will easily believe that I have had to work hard. It
will not be so hard for me after I get my quite work
done, and I hope to finish it next week. Give my dear
love to all the folks, and tell your mother and Clif that
I will write to them first as soon as I can get
time to do them justice. At present I am weary and
with mother's sickness and overwork, and cannot. Now
you rest my own darling. Write to me soon.

God bless my dear wife, and all the loves.
Your loving husband & most devoted
most devoted

Amherst Jan 7. 22nd 1857

My dear brother

Yours of the 5th inst (Post marked the 8th) was received yesterday. We were very glad to hear you were all well & in good spirits.

I received your letter from Swan River & immediately sent it to John. Ever since have been expecting the letter you then said you wd. write John when you got at your journey's end but have never heard from you since.

I saw John a week or two ago - then he had not heard from you & I presume he has not yet or he wd. have sent me the letter.

I was very sorry to learn that your goods &c. had not got through. Can hardly imagine how you got along without them - trust however you will be shielded & protected in some way.

The weather is not quite as cold here as you have it - tho' we are having a severe winter.

This morning the ~~thermometer~~ mercury stood 22° below zero & I understood that somewhere in the neighbourhood it stood 32° below.

Nothing particularly interesting has happened since you left here. Everything goes along in the old way - rather dull & quiet.

Poor John, Edwards died suddenly a short time after you left. Had a severe attack of rheumatism

I saw Mr. Corbin the other day he told me to tell you to send his
very back.

and could not believe in a fever similar to that
which took off our friend Brewster.

Your friends often inquire when I have heard
from you! Mr. Morgan stopped me the other
day & asked me when I had heard from you.
Said she wished she was there.

I have not been able as yet to do any
better with your land and fear that we cannot.

The times you know were hard when you
left & they seem to grow tighter & tighter.

I gave Dr. Morse a description of them
some time ago & he said he would try to do some
thing in Detroit, but I think the prospect is
dark & hope you will not calculate much
upon it. Money is worth the 2/3 cent a month
here now.

By the way the Dr. asked me if the
other 1/2 of the tract which Mr. Clarke purchased
was for sale & on what terms. Thought he wd-
go & see it in the Spring if it was an object.

You want a doctor there I presume.

I hope you will get along through the
long winter which is dreary even here.

When Spring opens I trust every thing will
be bright & cheering. Write whenever you get
an opportunity to send to the P.O. if only a line or
two. It will be a satisfaction to us to hear you
are getting through the winter without trouble.

Wish all pretty well - some cold - and all
wish to be runn hand to you all.

Your brother Houston



H. P. Barr, Esq.,
Long Prairie,
Minnesota

Michael Robinson

1857

St. Paul, Dec. 28, 1857.

W. P. Ware Clerk

Dear Sir:

Your letter of the
20th inst. received the 26th, and
in compliance I paid Mr. King
ten dollars in gold. If it was
any accommodation, I am glad
to have had an opportunity
of doing you a favor. Now I
have a favor to ask of you
that you will not refund
the money until I again
visit you. There is no family
in the State I should take so
much pleasure in seeing as

yours. With regard to the
 Wisconsin University I know
 very little. Mr. Libbey and
 Mr. Ramsey are negotiators. All
 to whom I have spoken about
 it, think the proposed endowments
 have not been filled. At
 what time it will commence
 operations I know not. Mr.
 Libbey is not now in power,
 but soon will be. I will find
 out all I can about it and then
 I shall have an excuse for
 again writing to you. From
 Clippi's letter I am glad to
 learn that his uncle has

[Dec. 28, 1857]

Made him think better of
Long Prairie. I hope you
will all prosper, and that
Malcolm live or will get over
his California fever. I want
to have a visit with him
yet. This place is not
quite a paradise for
primitives. We have some
amusing lectures here this
winter. The political news
I suppose you can get
from the papers I mail
for Cliff.

Very truly yours,

Marshall Robinson.

Mr. H. R. Van Cleave.