



Horatio P. Van Cleve and
family papers.

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Monticello Minn.
Aug 28

Mr. Lorator P. Van Cleave -
Long Prairie -
Swan River -
Minnesota -

home in Texas, and of our intended trip
there this fall. He seems delighted with
the state, its climate, productions, &c.

I think I shall like you well, and
wish to go. I have some distant relatives
with whom I am well acquainted, living
very near where we wish to, which will
make it pleasant for me.

While in St. Francis he frequently
inquired about you, and seemed to
remember you, and Aunt Charlotte with
pleasure. And since I have been here, several
of the old neighbors, among whom are Mrs.
Smith, and Mrs. Brown, have asked par-
ticularly about you. Frank is now nine
years old, and unusually large for his age.
He has a very sweet, affectionate disposition.
He says he would like to have his little
cousins here with him, to help him eat
water-melons, and to play with him.
Father wishes to know what cousin Norbert
is doing in California. Love to Aunt, and
all the children. Your loving niece Mary Davison

Louis Co. Mo.
Aug. 23rd 1850.

Dear Anne & Cora.

I have not
heard from you for a
long time, although I would
not long since.

John & I are now
in Ill. preparatory to
migrating to Texas. We
know you have decided
as if we could have settled
you or in any manner
served you, and Charlotte
and our cousins.

I wish you knew we could
have settled in the same
country particularly as
we have both chosen new
ones. Although I have
never seen Miss.

Still I must acknowledge
I have a natural preference
for a more Southern climate.

While our dear un-
cles are laboring (I it is
hard labor too) feeling
your stock, asking if
Shaking with cold, all
we have to do is to add
account & see if all are
Safe & well. Some fear
any - Some two misdeeds
in on the wharffs, to keep
them cleared down. Can
float nearly all wintered -

Over many other ad-
vantages too numerous
to mention.

It dear uncle Horatio if
you ever move again
come to Texas.

Mr. Lee exchanges very much
since you were sold. But
still nothing is high. Land
is still low. worth for \$20 -
40 per. acre.

(Papers complaining the
harder times ever known
here)

Dear uncle

I wish so much I could see you,
and aunt Charlotte. I have seen little of
you so little, and it has been a source
of deep regret ~~to~~ ^{to} me, that ~~it~~ I could
see you no more. And now the dis-
tance between us is widening, and the prob-
abilities that we will see still less of
you, increasing. You have ever been my
dearest uncle, you who were so devotedly
loved by my darling mother.

Brother, I suppose (for I have not read
his letter) has told you all about his

Monticello, N.Y.
Feb. 3

A. P. Van Cleave
Long Prairie
Todd Co.
Minnesota

296
196
100

Beef cattle cattle can be
bought for \$2.00 per hun-
dred weight.

I hear of but very few
sales, but I think it is
because no one has any
money to buy with.

Also spring will most
probably cause an advance
in the price of stock &
make sales ~~more~~ more brisk.

As to horses - horses
are scarce & rather hard to
purchase and range from \$80 to \$120
horses rather cheaper.

3 yr old horse	costs	\$80 to 90
2 " " " "	"	60 to 70
Yearling " "	"	40 to 50

Lilies flower & perhaps a
little higher. But I have
seen horses at what I think
they will be in the spring.

Lewis C. Nor
28th Jan 1859

My dear Uncle
Yours of Dec. 27th
was rec^d Sat. Night, &
I answer it as far as my
knowledge extends. Hop-
ing that you may con-
clude to visit Mo. once
more.

And in regard to cattle
horses &c. ~~There is~~ in
this immediate section of
country there seems to be
no fixed price. Every-
body asks all they can get
& nobody gives any more
than they can help.

Near as we are here to the
river prices are usually much
higher than farther back in
the country. And cattle.

buyers rarely ever stop when
they go on farther back.

Some time since when there
was to a some pro-
cessed of better money &
feed, ^{as good chance for a profitable} as could well be de-
sired. Cattle were said to be
lower than ever before
known. But lately the
Pike's Peak excitement

has caused quite an advance
in the prices of cattle. Par-
ticularly look over. They
now sell at Denver where
they ^{or} have been brought
in quantities for last fall
& now are worth fr. \$60.00
to \$100.00

As to the quality of our cattle
in this neighborhood they
are nothing extra. But
in portions of the country

& in adjacent counties they
have fine cattle & horses.

Wherever the farmers have
been sufficiently imbued
with a progressive spirit
to establish a fair &
manifest improvement has
taken place in the stock.
Still there is no particu-
lar price for any kind of
cattle unless it is work over
still I think the following
will be about right for this
part of the country

Work over fr. \$60. to \$100.00

Cows. about \$20.00

3 year old steers fr. 14. to \$18. ^{\$16.} ^{Highway to}

2 " " " " \$10.00 " ^{\$8. to 10.}

Yearling " " \$4.00 to \$5.00 " ^{same}

There are also some
calves & the same will be the
age stated next spring

Malinda. I fear^{is} in considerable trouble. Mr. Dorrill who owned her & children became very much in debt I was obliged to mortgage them I finally sold them, but with the privilege of redeeming them in twelve months.

He & they also are anxious that I should redeem them, as most probably otherwise their destination will be down the river.

I myself am very anxious to get them, if possible, but there will be a good deal of danger in buying them, as he is much in debt & the matter will be complicated. Malinda herself will be free, I suppose.

John is in La Grange; looks as natural as ever.

[Jan. 25, 1869]

You recommend me in
your letter to attend imme-
diately to the money left
over by Uncle Houston
Why do you recommend?

Is it in danger? or is it that
you think we might get
higher interest?

Mrs. Garrison desires to be
particularly commended to
you & Anne Charlotte

Mrs. Garrison says you ought
to have told us the prices
of cattle in Min. & we ~~as~~ had
taken you up a small note
next summer. But ~~if~~ ~~you~~
was just in time.

Give my love to Aunt I
to my cousins & believe me
Most sincerely

Your nephew
Wm. Garrison



Mrs. Charles Fair
Care Horatio Van Hook Esq
Long Prairie
Yoclet Co.
Minnesota.

New Haven. Nov. 5th 1860.

My dear aunt

Mrs. Charlotte V. Van Cleve

Minnesoter

Your welcome letter, informing me of the safe arrival of our Lillian, reached me some time ago. I was very glad to hear that she had performed her long journey safely, and as I hope from your letter without being quite used up. I have felt much for you in parting with your darling grandchild. Lizzie cannot fill his place, but I trust the companionship, which only a daughter can give will lessen somewhat your loneliness, deprived as you have been of her society by her long absence. I often think of her, and of how much pleasure her company was to me last winter - & sometimes, when I am castle building,

think of visiting Minnesota, and of learning to love the unknown members of your family, but sober reason tells me it is very improbable. Since Lizzie and Mollie left us, we have been extremely quiet, and the girls are devoting themselves with great zeal to their music and their studies - Willie is still pursuing his studies at home. Father's health is but poor and my own indifferent. You see there is not much to tell of ourselves. I am glad to have this opportunity of sending a few remembrances to the children - My cousins seem very near to me, little intercourse as we have. Do not object to Lizzie's writing to me on account of her poor hand. - I want much to hear what she is doing with herself. Much love to uncle and a large share to yourself.

Yours truly
Anna.

Thursday, Oct 3rd

I sent Lizzie's package yesterday to Mr. Thomson - I intended to have put these letters in it, but remembered that it might be some time in reaching you. I have just received a letter from Mary Van Cleve. Aunt Antoinette had been making a three weeks visit in Buffalo, but was about to return home. Mary was in Ann Arbor not long since. All were well.



Mrs. C. C. Van Gleeve
care of H P Van Gleeve.
Long Prairie

M. T.

Todd Co
Minnesota.

& I will write a longer
letter next no more at
present from your loving
sister Lizzie

P.S. ~~there~~. You ~~will~~ will see
a large blot at the bottom
of the page I don't know
how it got there I am sure.)

MS

N. Haven. Nov 10th 1859

Dear Mother & father.

You told me to
write to you ~~every~~ every week,
& so I shall. I wrote to you last
week & am looking for a letter.

I wish some stamps when you
write send some 10 cents as well
as 3 centers for then I won't have to
take my 3's. to write to Malcolm
I wrote to Malcolm & Seymour
last week.

Cousin Julia says she is
going to keep me all winter. She
says I belong to her now & I
think if Mort comes to take me
they will not let me go. but I
want to see Mort very much
he said he would come & see me.
& when he has done lecturing
he will take me back & about

Christmas time I shall go to
N.Y. again

I can think of nothing
more now. I am sending her
love to you & all the little ones
how is Mark & little John.
kiss all for me. how do you
like Kate. love to all the
little ones & Amelia. I must
write to Mark & John.

so Good bye God
bless you your
affectionate
Daughter Lizzie

M. Haven Choultier

Dear Mark

I hope you were
well when you got home & that
you did not starve little John
on the way. you must break
yourself of your bad temper

& let John have a little good
tit once in a while. he is a
very good boy & does not fight
but returns good for evil so you
must be kind to him.

Write soon I will write along
letter the next time. so no more
at present your loving Aunt
Lizzie

M. Haven Choultier

Dear John

Mark will tell all
the news & I will write you
first next time. I hope your
tit is nice & that Mark will let
you have the good one some
times.

You must be good as you
were in N.Y. & not make
mother any trouble be a good
darling & write to sister soon

10 1899
at Haven November

Dear Seymour

you have not answered
my letter to you & so I shall write
again for fear you did not get it
if you did you have no excuse for not
writing before.

This afternoon I went to see a little
girl who is 9 yrs. old, weighs 13 lbs,
& is 2 ft 2 inches high she stands on a
mans hand while he puts it out as
for so he can while she Miss Dollie
Dutton turned and kissed her little
hands when she came down she danced
a polka and bowed and kissed her
hands to all the people so pretty.
Her sister ^{Jenny} danced better but is not
as pretty in the face but very near
she is about 6 ^{feet} ~~feet~~ ^{feet} should think & is
larger a lovely dancer & very pretty
Dollie Dutton, or the ~~Jenny~~ as she is called

in not as large as Johnny.

Now is Johnny & Mark, & all the
little people, he, & Oh Seymour I am
afraid you are a sad boy not write to
me before I am afraid you will
forget you have a sister.

Now is dear darling Father
you must help him a good deal
give my love to father Mother & our
most Paul darling Nathan &
little Mally is she just the same
love to Amelia and tell her I will
write soon.

Good bye darling boy
May God bless you your
Loving sister Lizzie



FREE

H. P. Van Buren.

P. M. Long Prairie
Cadd Co.

Minnesota

at Brother's feet that judged him worthy. Please
 say to him we are here
 Did you get the
 in 1833. also
 Lilly
 Write to
 a little later
 I am sorry to say
 Short cannot go to
 Please to his lecture as
 keeps him back. & still more
 sorry to say that Bluff is
 going with me is not that
 hard I am sorry to disappoint
 you but I suppose you know
 it by this time..
 that is all I have to say
 Mother & I should like
 that Mr. Knapp's for
 are note.
 Good bye dear Mother
 May God bless you all
 Write soon to your.
 Loving little Lizzy
 Post S. Mother & sister the
 call me Lilly I want to see you

you will please write soon

August 12th 1860

My dear Mother.
 I received a letter
 the other day from you with
 some money (\$10) & was very glad
 to get it I assure. I suppose that
 if Grandmother & the children go
 so soon they (will be in London)
 will have started before I get
 home. Please Mr. Knapp on the 15th of
 August. It is Sunday morning
 lovely morning too it is I think I
 always put up with the wrong spot
 I am unplaced it is 5 minutes after
 7. I have not taken one bit of breakfast
 We have a red but have breakfast at
 5 o'clock, in these parts we have it
 at about 8 or 9 some where else
 there. I will get up at 6 or half of 6
 5. Please tell Mother that I
 am becoming out of the way

although I have not of course
sinned the church is yet quite
but I have been but 2 times to
a congregation church this
vacation the college chapel is
now shut up. but I don't
do you think I went to see, at
the Episcopal Church I went
to Christ Church & heard our ^{very} ~~very~~
rector Mr Brewster the first
time. I was with Cousin
Aunt & an other Monday
or Tuesday he came across the
street & said excuse me for
stopping you in the corner of
the street in this manner.
but may I ask if your name
is Miss Clark? & in my soul is
I am like Mr. B. oh but was not
your mother a Miss Charlotte
Clark? (Hizzey) & so is. you know
me I suppose said Mr. B. Mr Brewster
Isa you in church the other

day in church. I thought you
were her child, Charlotte Clark
^{in fact like her}
Was a great pet of mine & gives
she was a little ^{older} ~~younger~~.
then I was though remember
me to see together with your
father when you write. All
then asked me where you
were living I told him &
he oh handed & smiled & took
himself away, however I told
him greatly but I have not seen
him since Wapeckto. I am
going to scribble a post script
to my dear mother so I must
bid you good bye & kiss all
the children for me much
love to mother, Grandma &
Ellen & Horace tell Seymour
not to fail to meet me at New P.
I will write & tell you then.
Good bye dearest sister & Miss
Sad bless you ^{all} your loving little

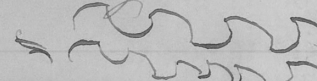


Mrs B.C. Van Cleave
Care of N.E. Van Cleave
St. M. Long Prairie
Tad Co
Minnesota

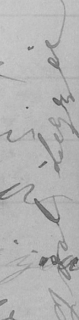
New Haven Feb 14th 1860

Dear mother

I received your
kind dear letter yesterday
you said you missed a let-
ter last week you should
have had one because I
wrote you sent me 10 stamps
for which I was very glad
you have not yet told me
whether I could buy a doll
or not I guess you will let
me and so I think I will
get one you told me
I could have one if you
could get me one while
you were in New Y. but
you did not get one but
you know what sent me
\$2⁰⁰ ^{for a present} and I used 2 and a quar-
ter of it for Ruth Hall.

I am glad to hear that
the children are well
and that John is a
patient ~~as well~~ and that
Mort is as full of
mischief as ever. I am glad
you have papered the parlor
dining room & Hall. It will
be so comfortable. You say
Mallie is very pretty &
Paul is having fun sliding.
I wish I were there to go
with them. You told me to
bring a basket home was it
that long one with a handle
in the middle that ~~was~~
Mort had for play
things in? Tell Seymour &
Mortie that I have learned to skate
& am learning the Dutch Roll
to teach them when I come
home. It is pretty the
skate are like this 

You have to skate on the out
side edge of your skate ~~and~~
it is quite difficult. First
on the right and then on
the left ^{foot} ~~then~~ it makes
no difference which foot
you take first.

I must now stop but first
I must tell you that I heard
from Mort a short time
ago and all were well.
Give my love to father
and kiss him a thousand
times promise to be to the
Cott and Chickens horses
& cows. Beanie must be fed
every day and every day
Paul is Rob Roy is he
broken yet I had some
hair put in the pinz
and me when I was
ch. G. Good bye and bless you
mother pray for your little 



FREE

W. P. Van Cleve
P. M. Long Prairie
Ladd & Co.
Minnesota

[Ca. Feb. 7, 1860]

Ala #1

Dear Mother.

Yours of the 22
often reached me with one for
Cousin Anna yesterday and
I was very sorry to hear that
Father and the Children had
been sick. I love the people
here very much but I must
to go to N. B. to very much
Julia is going to teach me
French is not that nice
I am very glad to hear that
Mark stands alone and
more so to hear that he
steps. dear patient John
who loves sister Lizzie so
much I am so very glad
Kate is so good I will try
to write a ~~letter~~ and

(All things in your letter that are dotted are not
meant to be there not so in father's letter)

When I have leorned ~~French~~
perhaps when I leorn ~~French~~
I can write a French letter
some time. I will send
to ~~Molly~~ and Paul a lit-
tle picture a painted one
I will make it myself.

dear mother make the
boy's write soon please &
~~send~~ an kiss all the little
ones for me and do not let
any of them for get there
me will you does ~~other~~ talk
tell him about Aunt Lizzy
will you. Good bye

God bless you.

dearest mother yours

little girl

Lizzy

New Haven Feb 7th 1860

Dear Father

I am very sorry that my coat is not a nice one and so I shall write a better one to you and Mother. I really do not know how I can leave my Sabbath school boys they are so fond of me. George Westbrook said he liked me better than any other teacher he ever had I am so glad they love me.

I hope all the children are well I do want to see them so much all of them Seymour, Mortie, Sammy, Carlo, Paul and Lizzie and dear John. But I remember how the little fellow used to look so patient

waiting for his turn in the
night when little mischief
Mark would snap at him
but he would not mind him
he was very good about
it and did not cry at all
dear Mark is well I hope
but Mother's last letter
said they had the chicken
pox she said but I once
I believe were you very
sick I hope you will
now I am glad to hear
that Jane is well does Legman
get on well with his French
and does ~~not~~ I must do
very much to get up to
them but I do not study it
I understand French if I was not
afraid of being too much
trouble to Julia would ask
her to teach me am going
to ask her I think she will

be willing she always is
if she can do any thing to
help Cousin Lillie at all
so I will venture to ask

Oh Father Julia says she
would be delighted to teach
me French and so I am
going to learn and get
even with the boys.

Love to Mother & Molly
Leg man Mortie Samm
& Saul Mark & John and
yourself, all send
love. Good bye God bless

your Father dear
your little
Daughter
Lizzie



H. P. Van Cleave esq.

P. M. Long Prairie
Lumber Co
Minnesota

New Haven Jan 10th 1890

Dear Mother & father,

You will have to take this letter both together this time I guess,

I want to know Mother if I can buy a doll that sent me a Christmas present of two dollars and a half & told me to buy what I wanted to with it and call it a Christmas present from him I bought Ruth Hall with one dollar and thought they would think me silly if I got a doll and so I thought I should ask you say yes now Mother please you know I want to be your little girl as long as possible, your diamond ring is a great

Comfort to me dear mother
-er. Please send me ~~some~~
snips. N-although is address
(I believe it is spelled right)

Donot let Paul forget me
do you get letters from me
every week because it is not
because I do not write every
week I have not recieved a
letter from you this week
but I expect one this week
or rather to day.

I am afraid this little
letter will be to late for
the mail and so must
close. Love to the little
ones Seymour In. S. P. N.^{Mass}
J. Mally & Brother do not
let them forget me do send
talk of me often. So good bye
Dear parents your loving
little girl Lizzie

Not all of the people here call me
Lizzie

Long Prairie Minn. Nov 19. 1859.

My dear brother

Your letter to me, by my wife, has filled me with mortification, not feigned, but real. When you wrote to me two years since respecting this unsettled business, I sat down immediately, and wrote to Houston who held Manning's obligation to pay the balance due on the mortgage I gave you. Manning was a man of ready means and property. I anticipated no trouble, but supposed it would be paid promptly. Hearing no more about it from Houston, I supposed it had been settled until I heard from you a few days since. I have again written to Houston, and am now determined to get an answer from him, and have the business settled for I am unwilling that you should suffer any loss, through your kindness to me, which I have ever sincerely appreciated, when I was in difficulty.

Your statement is correct, and my only regret in the matter, is, that it stands, as it does, unsettled.

My wife reached home with the children safely. Had delightful weather during her journey; met with no accident by the way; arrived at the scene of the Rail Road disaster

in Wisconsin, a few hours after it occurred;
and reached home a few hours before our
winter was ushered in by a heavy snow storm.
Our Heavenly Father was with her and protected
her. She sends much love to you, your wife,
and children.

I am glad that Fizzie has the opportunity
of cultivating the acquaintance of her cousins.
I hope you will see her occasionally as op-
portunity offers. She is now our only daughter.
You will find her a wild prairie flower ~~which~~ ^{in need}
of cultivation.

Remember me affectionately to your wife
and children.

With sincere affection

Your brother

J. P. Ambler

Each of Charles
Dec 4

Mr H. P. Van Cleave
For Mrs H. P. Van Cleave

Long Prairie
T. C.
Minnesota

Peach Orchard Dec 5th 1860

Dear Charlotte

I rec'd your welcome letter three weeks since, and each Mail I had determined that it should not leave without your letter, but membership things have happened to occupy my time, and thoughts, - about the first of last month, the Company lost a Coal boat on the Ohio, from which three men were drowned one an Englishman, who left a wife and three children, he was a worthy man and, you will be glad to hear had united himself to Mr. Campbell's Church, a short time before leaving home -

We have made different arrangements, ^{here} Mrs. Crutch-
shanks has taken Mr. Swets house, and opened a school, with Mr. Campbell, and her daughter, Mrs. Burke looks for them, and their school rooms are in De Marché's ^{house} - I think it is better for our children, and that they will improve faster; but unless they have very good encouragement, it is not likely that they will remain longer than the spring, I mean the Ladies - Miss Maryie has not fulfilled her engagement with regard to

Queen; she was to teach her French, German, and Music—and has only taught her French—and when her Uncle Lincoln presented Russia with a guitar, Miss M. said that she could not teach music—thus you see that they have been here more than a year, and we have had all the trouble, and expense, without answering the end we had in view—the children will attend the school until spring, and then we shall make different arrangements—

Mr. Mellen is now in Cincinnati, will be there five or six weeks—he says that the Long Prairie Company told him that ten or eleven families were to remove from St. Pauls to L.P. early in the spring; I hope that there may be some pleasant people among them—We hear that it is feared the Prince of Wales is lost—I hope that it may not prove true—we had some terrible high winds last month—

I hope Mary sent some shoes to the children I neglected to take their measure, as I should have done—Your friend Susan Feller has lost her eldest son of Consumption, I have

written her poor Sister, she, like all, has so much sorrow—

I want to hear that Mulehorn is with you and is a great comfort and assistance to his father—remember me to Mr. Dumble and Grandmother's love, to all the children—

Ellen promises every week to write but she is so constantly engaged now, especially while Mr. M. is absent, that she has hardly a moment to herself. when Mr. M. returns it will be decided what the Company are going to do, and his plans for the future will be governed by that decision—Ellen's boys are giving her ^{more} twenty pounds of butter a week, pretty well for a country where the grass does not grow naturally—

I am glad that you have a little society this winter, how does Lizzy like such entire relaxation contrasted with last winter—

Queen has made many attempts to answer your letter, but out of school she has lately been so much engaged, getting subscribers for the little Physician, and writing Grace Greenwood, that she has had little

time for any thing else — the children are
all very well this winter, little Nathaniel
is a fine boy and pet although the most
delicate looking child in the house, seems
pretty well, and is coming on very fast in her
studies, and if Malcolm does not look out
will get before him — you know girls are
always two years at least before boys at school.

Good bye my dear child, write
as often as you can, and let Leggy write when
you cannot —

Yours affect.

Mother

E. A. Clarke

is it necessary
for me to furnish
my letters.

My dear Mother
I received your letter long ago and was not surprised
presented. I have been very ill with inflammation
of the stomach, & superinduced by my being
again in a family way. For the last two weeks
I have been getting better and was now able
to be about the house and attend to my household duties. We had
been to St Paul this July, since just as we
started for home, I was taken so ill that
it was with difficulty I could ride in the stage.
We reached home here on the second day, and
there I was obliged to remain for two weeks, unable to hold
up my head, and finally was brought home
in a sleigh on a bed. The rest of the family
are all well. We made some delightful
acquaintances in St Paul and had a very
pleasant visit.

We dined with Captain Dana, formerly
of the army now a wealthy banker of St Paul.
His wife is very lovely, she was a Miss Sanford
of Burlington, sister to Indianer Sanford who
married Captain Whiting and was in Florida when

My dear brother, I am very glad to hear of your success. Susan Biss is her cousin, and Harriet Martin your friend. She was much pleased to find I knew so many of her relatives and said when you visit St Paul again you must be sure and let her know. She is a devoted Episcopalian, and you would find her a very charming acquaintance. Mary Fleming's daughter, Mrs. Cochran, called with her husband who is Postmaster in St Paul. She is very sweet, looks like her dear mother, and expressed a strong desire to see you. Mr. Cochran said you must come right to their house. She is the second or third daughter. Abby married a cousin in Pittsburgh, and died soon after. The daughter Mary happened. When you visit St Paul again, which I look forward to your doing next Spring certainly, you will stop at the "Merchant's Hotel" and send your card to these two, Mrs. Hanna and Mrs. Cochran, and it is very likely they will be happy to call and talk over old times. It would make you young again I know. They wanted much that we should visit them and spend some time with them. We may do again some time.

Now let me congratulate Ellen and my good brother William on the birth of their new baby boy. I had much pleasure to hear of it, and that Ellen was doing so well. Tell her and Mary too that I view of my expected baby, which will come early in July, and will be a boy, I am sure. I think you must be under duty to contribute towards its maintenance, more especially as my eyes are failing to such an extent that I am sure it is almost out of the question to write me. Let them bear in mind that it will be a gift from the child, that I am a grand mother, and that before its birth I shall be forty two years old. I shall be glad to contribute something for it if she can find time. I am getting quite old you will think to ask such favors but when you consider the circumstances you will pardon me. Now after all I have told you, don't you feel it your duty to spend next summer with me? I hope Mary will visit me, and that Mary Anne will spend some time with us. You know we have plenty of room, and company never becomes tedious. Hope them to come, I wish Mr. Mellen would be, but I don't think

altogether. I have visited the house a holiday
of Long Prairie. There never could be a
more delightful home than this, if you
only have some neighbors and a little
health. There is not another such a
climate in the north. The house has
more of the good things of life than all
children in the north. I have been
except from the first winter when we were
not prepared for the cold, and when
we suffered much from many pri-
vations. The country must be a great
one, it has every thing to make it such
and with all this we have found times we have
seen and may yet see here. I have rather
often thought of children here and think their
prospects are brighter here than
they would be in your beautiful Peach
Orchard home. I am sorry to say I am
about to lose Ann, she is going home to
stay this winter, and I hardly know when
to find another girl. We are going to the
fair next week to try and find one. The
fair is on the 1st of July before we return and
I will tell you of our visit when I write
again. Will you try and induce one of the
Scottish girls or some good girl, to come and
live with me next spring? I am in earnest.
The girls here only work until they get a few calico
dresses, and a change of under clothes and then

New York Oct 21st 1859

My dear Mother,

Yours of 13th inst
came last night.

I write in great haste to say
that I leave here on 24th or
25th inst. shall stop in New
York and then consult with
Mr Kiley, if he thinks I can
go by Cincinnati and get
home before navigation closes
I shall do so by all means and
in that case shall be with
you in about a week. Now
Mother can't you go home
with me it would make
me so happy. You could
stand the winter I know

and I want you so much
I am to take Mark home
with me. Can you knit
a pair of stockings for your
great grand child $\frac{2}{1}$
I shall write soon again
if I do not come
all send love

God bless you

Your aff daughter
L. C. V.

Long Prairie Jan'y 9th 1871
My dear Mother,

In moments of grief I write a few lines to tell you what you may have learned from other sources that God has taken to himself our precious Mother. I heard the sad tidings last week when we were expecting such different news. On Tuesday the 21st of December, the dear little babe born and was very happy and apparently well. When unfavorable symptoms took place and after a night of anguish she found that in her sorrowful labor, her dear child, was lying dead down well when we heard. What was so cruel that I could not restrain and I was so overcome with grief at the news. We heard it from a young friend of Mother's who waits at Mother's request until we get letters from Mother herself, we can know more of the particulars. You can feel for our dear Mother. I know, when you lost dear Belle you had the comfort sad though it was of being remembered. This was denied to me, but I am trying to bear it all with the help of God. Life looks so miserable trifling and I think that whenever my summons shall come, I can close my eyes without a struggle and go to my Father and the dear one he has taken to his arms. Anne was so much what dear Belle used to give a loving devoted daughter and you know, without my telling you how

and heart is. She was in a very delicate state, but she was
always loved. God and that she was
always actuated by pure, unselfish Christian motives
in all she did. I take great comfort in this tonight
and feel that our great and heavenly Father is her witness
to gain. God grant us grace to wait patiently for
all He called us home. Our hearts bleed for poor Mother
He has known and loved her for so many years
she has been so much a part of himself. He has felt
that she was his "child-wife" even before they were
married. Her love for him was so great and in
many ways they were so happy together that his
loss will be terrible. God comfort him in his agony
and bereavement. I owe Ellen a letter but cannot
write now. I must ask you to tell her of
our affectionate remembrance and love. I hope Ellen has been wonderfully preserved
through her hour of trial and that by this time
she is well. Give her my love. In our greatest
and truest need we miss much the sympathy of Christian
friends and the counsel and comfort of a minister
of the Gospel. But we are isolated and afflicted and
but for our trust and faith in God we should be
in despair. In the words of Job we can say "Have pity
upon us oh ye our friends have pity upon us for the hand
of God has touched us." Yes dear Mother his hand is
heavy upon us, but when he sets forth the same hand
only to soothe and comfort us. We will try to wait for
that time and may be grant that our sorrow may
purify and make us better. God bless you all. Love to
Mother, Ellen and all the children. Write to me as soon as you
can. Ellen writes when she is able.
Your affectionate and devoted daughter

IN

Horatio T. Van Cleve Esq,
Long Prairie
Minnesota

be with you, watch over you, and
bless you, and when we have done with
all here upon earth, and this earthly
pilgrimage is over, may we all meet
where death shall never come, and
our joys never cease.

Give much love to Charlotte
Kiss all the dear children, and believe
me ever your affectionate and much
attached Brother

John

Antimatter, Mary and all the children
send much love to all, Antimatter will
write to Charlotte very soon. This winter
we have been most comfortable without
a fire, and consequently she has had
much to do, and many cares on her hands,
once more I pray may God bless you,

J,

Spokane, Aug 14, 1889

Dear Horatio

The sad intelligence of
dear Anna's death has overwhelmed
us all with the deepest grief, the
all my dear Brothers do most sin-
cerely sympathize with you and Charlotte
in this great affliction that an all-wise
God has seen fit to lay upon you. Bear
up under it my dear Brother and Sister
for be assured that God has laid his
afflicting hand upon you thus severely
for some wise purpose, the much not
the least our greatest loss. Dear
Brother this is a sad blow to your
earthly happiness, the greatest that has
ever fallen upon your dear family, but
let not your grief for your dear daughter
weigh too heavily upon you, she is not
dead but liveth a bright Angel in
that home prepared for her by the

intercession of our dear Redeemer
Grieve not then I say you shall
meet your dear one again, And Oh Natalie
how soon, Yes how few are the years
that must pass away when we all must
meet at the bar of God, in a better world
the places that know us now shall know
us no more forever, Anna has gone only
a little while before, may we all be prepared
to meet her there,

You and dear Charlotte know from
what source your only comfort and
consolation in this world can come,

What words of sympathy I may
offer may prove to you my lacking affec-
tion for you, for Charlotte and for all your
dear children, They will prove to you that
in your deep affliction you are not for-
gotten by those you love, but Oh my
Brother They cannot heal the wounded
spirit, nor build up the broken heart
God alone, Yes even He that has so
severely chastened you, He alone can give

You that peace that the world cannot
give, nor no power save God alone, can
take from you, You have every reason to
believe in the perfect happiness of your dear
one, you believe her a bright Angel midst
the throng of bright and happy spirits that
surround the throne of God, Would you
call her away from the joy, that
surround her, would you beckon her from
that bright world of spirits to linger a few
years longer in this vale of tears, midst trials
and suffering, disappointments and temptations?
Oh no, I know you would not, this then
the road that characterizes you, God doeth all
things well, Believe me dear Natalie for this
our affliction God hath a rich blessing in
store for you,

Search you were nearer to us that we
might by our presence cheer you up, but
know dear brother that we think of you
and your afflicted family constantly,

Write to me soon if you can, and
let me know how you all are, May God