



Horatio P. Van Cleve and
family papers.

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Mrs. C. P. Van Cleave
Little Falls
Min

[Apr. 12, 1859?]

April 12

My dear mother
I long to see you and
the baby very much
and hope that you will
will soon be home but
I will have to
wait patiently till
you come. The soldiers
are a going away.

Good-bye

god bless you
and the baby

Yours
affectionate
son
H. S. Van Buren

Mrs C. D. Van Cleve

Little Falls

To
St Conrad

Main

Long Prairie Apr. 7. 1859. 5 P.M.

My dear wife

I think it well to keep a letter in the stocks, so that it may be launched whenever an opportunity offers for it to sail to Little Falls.

I am very impatient for the return of St Conrad, for I feel very sure that he will bring me good news.

I have just finished letters to John & Antoinette, & Willie Daviess, leaving room to add a post-script when I hear from you. Do I owe any more letters? I wrote to Malcolm by the last mail.

The children are all well. Lizzie has taken a walk over the hill back of the house with Minerva, that is to say Malvina or Melinda. Seymour & Mort just ran over towards the soldiers' quarters. Sam, Nathan and Mollie are making a racket in the dining room. Fane is sitting by me. Lizzie finished dressing Malvina's doll today and gave it to her. She was much pleased with it. Knowing from experience that it was necessary to wash children's faces occasionally, she has just washed the doll's face, & you may judge how her baby looks. - I try to have the children study

every day. Seymour & Martin, read, write & cipher daily. Seymour will write a very good hand. He takes pains and copies well. It grieves me that Siggie takes so little pleasure in my society. She prefers that of Cassandra altogether. I suppose I am to blame, for I am too taciturn to please the children. The boys, however are too fond of coming in my room & frequently annoy me so much with their noise that I am obliged to drive them out.

My darling wife, home is not home without you, and how can I live if you go East this summer? I often ask myself that question, and answer it with a deep drawn sigh.

Friday 8th The Webb of Sank Rapids arrived last evening bringing news from Swan River, that the troops here are ordered immediately to Fort Ridgely. I suppose it is true. — George had a quarrel with Meyer on last evening, and took a drunk in consequence. I got up this morning, made the fires & milked the cows. I do not like Melissa's bold, coarse, rough, noisy manners. Siggie must necessarily be much in her company, assisting with the work, and the association does her no good. — I regret that it is so, and wish now that you could find some good steady woman to take her place. I also want a good steady man.

I regret much that we are to lose the officers so soon. They must be glad of a change, for it

must be very dull for them here. I wish they were going to Ripley.

Apr 7. The Lt rode in the yard yesterday afternoon and as soon as I saw his face, I knew he was bringing good tidings. God bless him. And may God bless you my darling wife, and our darling boy. And certainly I have every reason to thank our Heavenly Father for all his goodness, his kind care over you.

I have a great chance to visit you but cannot embrace it. Russell is off on a bendler & I dare not leave home.

I send you letters from Malcolm, West. Mrs. T. & mother. — Mr. Rice said we saw seeds. — I want you to find a good girl. I know of nothing positively bad about Jerusha. but she is very bold and full of the Society of the Soldiers.

We are all well. Paul just came in to tell me to tell you to bring him a little brother & sister. It appears he wants both. Siggie is a little disappointed that you did not bring her a sister. — Do not think from any thing I have said that any thing goes wrong about the house. We get along as well as to be expected when you are absent. — God bless you my darling wife. Your own loving husband H. W.

Miss John for me

Swan River Minn.

Sept. 9

Mrs Charlotte A. Van Cleave

Little Falls

Winn.

[Co. Apr. 9, 1859]

All well, & feeling
Try to find a good
steady girl for us.

Love Love

A. P. & Co.

Long Prairie Minn.
Oct 17. 1859

W. L. Wheeler Gov. Priv. Sec.
For Mrs. C. B. Van Cleave

Care
Merchants Hotel

St. Paul
Minn

Long Prairie Oct. 14. 1857.

My own dear wife

The last mail brought three letters from you, and small comforts. The first acknowledged me of draft for \$100. I am glad it reached you safely. I was sorry to hear from that West was embarrassed in consequence of overtrading for friends. I hope he will learn that it is not safe for a young man to encumber for any body. The next do not need his name; the draft will not assuredly make him pay their liabilities. When he gets out of this scrape I hope he will be out of all others. He is too free hearted, but must leave every man.

Your next letter spoke of the baptism of the children. I am glad they were baptized together and wish that I could have been present.

Your next spoke of getting money from Philadelphia, but came too late for me to be able to reach you. If I had sent an express that week over Ohio, the letter would have reached St. Paul today or tomorrow, and if you had N.Y. on the 15th you could have it. I hope it will be all right. Please tell me certainly when I can meet you at Swan River.

On Tuesday I calculate to go to the agency

has been allowed to go to
my little shop. If so I will send money to
meet you at St. Louis unless I hear by your
next letter that you wish to have the money
sent to you. If I send it, it will be in a letter
enclosed to Whelan.

The children are all impatient to see you. They
ask every day, when will mother be home. I have
had a long fainting spell and we are all anxious
to see you home. All are well and are
getting along very comfortably, excepting that some
of the children are sadly in need of shoes and
I can't get any for them at St. Louis. I have in-
quired every time I have been down.

Mrs. G. Schilder has left and Annie ap-
pears to get along as well without her help as
with it. I certainly get along better without
the aid of her children. It was a great relief
to have them go.

Mr. Ham is not yet comforted and I much
doubt that his recovery will be long. I
am anxious to see the wife, Mary, and the man
home.

Last Tuesday's mail I have but a letter from
Charles, but disappointed me. I go that he will
not be home this winter.

I hope you have Mr. Tread in St. Louis and
that he has been over to you a few hundred
for some benefit, and as they are from the Compa-

ny. That is what I have been doing, although
I do not say I expected it.

The Election was held at my home last
Tuesday. We gave Mr. Tread, I think, more
of clean votes.

We have had delightful weather for some
time past. I wish you could have seen your
young men; but fear before you reach Long Prairie
you will experience some cold snaps.

My potatoes are all gathered and in the cellar. I
think we have about 125 bushels.

I have not heard from Mr. Moore since you
were in Michigan. Take it for granted he will
not see any of them here this winter.

Kiss Johnny for me,
Love, Mary, husband

M. A. Coleman

If I send money I will send a list of some
articles we need.



Mortimer Hanson
for Miss P. C. Van Cleave
168 East 24th. near 2 Avenue

New York

N.Y.

Long Prairie Sept 21, 1859 Thursday

My dear wife

I sh^d have notified you ere this, that on the 10th inst. I mail a letter to you at Little Falls containing a U.S. Treasury draft for one hundred dollars signed by J. M. Lynde, (Chf. Agent) and which I made payable to your order. I hope it reached you safe.

For the last 2 or 3 weeks I have been very much afflicted with the jaundice, and now I am suffering very much with it. So you need not expect a very long or an interesting or a very legible epistle.

Yesterday I received a letter from September 4th written at Mary Clarke's. Was glad to find you were enjoying yourself so well. Lou said but little about my darling Lizzie, but I missed her very much.

You must bring something to cure this horrid toothache, soon.

I think the ghost we hear every night is a deer mouse, Seymour & I saw, brought home a dead one yesterday. It is small, about 2 inches long, with very short fore legs, very long hind legs, and a longish tail, about 3 inches long.

Lou is very well.

Your letter of the 4th inst. was written

with very pale ink. I was about saying all
wishing for home.

I learned last night that Malcolm had
returned home.

There was a great commotion during the
day last night. I think a wolf came to Jessies
kennel, which is about 3 rods from the house, and car-
ried off one of her pups. — The calves were all
safe this evening, & with the cows.

Father began to growl again.

Good night, God bless you all. I will
write to Pappa when I have his address.

Your loving husband

John Brown

23. He took the morning

Mrs C. P. Van Buren

Little Falls

Main

Long Prairie Apr 17, 1859

My Dear wife

Mr. Ault found me in bed yesterday morning, and alarmed me not a little. I could not imagine what of being here so early in the morning, if it were not to bring some news from you. I thought too if there had been any necessity of sending an express, he would have sent some one & would not have come himself. — I let him have 15 lbs of butter from the flock. We are making but very little butter now, whether it is because the cows give but little milk or from bad management, I cannot say.

John Cornell brought the mail yesterday but no letters for us.

I think I mentioned in my last that I had written to your mother, — Hear nothing from Mr. Riskey & will not expect him till I see him or hear something very definite from him.

It is very uncertain very the troops leave tomorrow or Thursday, rather think they will not go till Thursday.

I have a great notion to come after you tomorrow (Monday) in a sleigh.

I think the roads will be so bad
by Thursday, it will be more tiresome to
you to travel in a carriage than to come
Tuesday in a sleigh. There is now con-
siderable snow on the ground & the
mercury this morning stood at $+10^{\circ}$.
The children are all well. I may bring
Suggie but think I shall leave Paul.

When Paul kisses me he always gives
me one for mother & one for little brother.

Look dinner yesterday with the Capt &
Lieutenant. Am very sorry to part with
them. — I regret I forgot to send the
magazine by the salt. Was very busy
that morning.

Take good care of yourself
God bless you dearly!

Your loving husband,

H. H. Van Cleve

Have not determined positively
to come to-morrow, but am think-
ing of it.

Mrs C. A. Brown

Little Rock

to

Miss

St. Conrad

Song Prairie Oct 4th 1859

My dear Sir,

I shall hope that you will
be able to send some friends to meet up with us at the
meeting place. We are sure to have a large
company. I am enough to take care of you and family
I am of it, however, and I shall be able to
do so. I have been expecting some from
the W. H. Camp. but they have been very busy
building the dam. I am expecting
some from the Chickasaws for killing game, but
the pay is not yet paid for the game. I
hope they may not allow the liquor.

I am anxiously looking for the
letter for the next Tuesday. I will
be sure to be there. I am certainly
expecting you.

I wrote last evening to Mr. Hickey
and of the visit to the Indian Bureau. That
morning they will be in the office.

The children are all well, and
many they ask to hear from you. I will be
sure to tell them. We all miss you very much, and
you may expect to hear from me very often.
I hope when you come home, I will be
able to keep you talking steadily for some time
after your return.

In the first of this month we have had
Indian Summer, & also winter; the light but
bitter & very disagreeable. Yesterday even-
ing the mercury stood at $+18^{\circ}$.

We are getting very very comfortably settled.
Fanny's children left yesterday. Her dear children
are all well & happy. I have, I think, a very
good opinion of George. He is a very
pleasant, bright up and a fine & reliable
man.

I have a letter from William Seaborn. He thinks
of going to Texas and settling there. He has about given
up the idea of studying for the Ministry, on account of
his health. I have again written to him, urging
him to take us a visit and spend the winter
with us.

May God bless you very abun-
dantly and preserve little one safely home.
I am ever lovingly & affectionately
Yours
A. B. Coleman

Song Prairie Minn
Apr. 11. 1859

Free
H. P. Van Cleave
P.M.

Mrs C. P. Van Cleave
Little Falls
Minn.

Long Prairie, Sabbath afternoon Apr. 10, 1859

My precious darling.

How are you and my darling boy to day, I hope to hear from you by the Lichtenharts, this evening. Have written letters the past week to John & t. Willie Davies & have informed them of the addition to our family. Intend to write to Malcolm to day. I suppose you have written to Mark & your mother, then wien, I wd write to them. We are all well. George has returned to study. Clarissa gets along very well. Are out of hay, but the horses appear to find a living on the prairie, as they did not come home last evening for their corn. They are in sight. The cows give about as much milk as usual; the calves look well. Stan had a calf yesterday morning. The hens lay a few eggs as there are but few of them to lay. The weather is gradually growing milder, and if it keeps on spring will be here after a while. — The troops are preparing to leave. It may take a week or two to get ready. — Last evening, Whitman James, Bradley & another man from Sauk Centre came here. They say Walker went down the river for fear of the Sergeant. He gained so much for meddling with affairs that did not concern him.

Sent you a satchel yesterday with some clothes and a package of letters. Hope they arrived safe.

You see from Malcolm's letter that they have had an avalanche at their diggings, and one man killed. We should thank our Heavenly Father for his kind care of our far off boy. I am sorry to learn of Mr. Thomson's loss from having his wife carried away. Malcolm speaks of going below the spring but says nothing about coming home.

I regret to learn that Mr. Mellen's children have all been sick. Your mother must have had a severe trial. Dear good woman I wish she could make you a visit, but I do not expect it.

You must let me know when it will be safe for you to travel. I am very anxious to have you home again. It is awful living without you. Oh what a voice Cleopatra has, I just hear it like the whistle of a locomotive.

Mr. Conrad has his hands full. He will have his hands full considerable trouble getting his stores to Fort Ripley. I wish I could help him. The Captain takes it very coolly. He is used to it.

Mr. Morrison left yesterday morning, he is going to Superior.

Sergeant Deane showed me a letter yesterday from Mrs. Cox, she tells Kate that

you had written to him, saying that you had given a great many things to Kate, besides money. — We have had trouble enough with Kate, I ~~trust~~ ^{fear} she ^{might} ~~may~~ even be in as good hands as yours. I believe they are getting along very well at present, but we cannot tell when to look for a home-coming. I hear he occasionally twits her about her baby. We may soon hear something worse.

Take care of yourself darling, keep up good courage. I want to make you a visit, but do not like to leave home just now, and perhaps may not till I come after you, that is, if I can come for you in a week. The children are all anxious to see you and their little brother.

9 P.M. I have called to see the Capt. this evening. He does not expect Dr. C. for a day or two. I had hoped to hear from you today. Hope you got the satchel, and the letters that were in it. Do not expect now to hear from you till Tuesday.

Seymour is just starting for bed, asked him if he had any word to send to you. Said nothing particular; give her my love. He is a dear boy & loves you dearly. — You notice in Malcolm's letter that he begins to feel his deficiency about writing. I wish it would stimulate him to study. I wish much that he were here but do not like to wait till I can offer him some inducement. I think he could do well here.

We must think over it when you come home. I am very anxious to have our children as near us as possible. I think Malcolm may make more money mining, but fear he is removed from all good moral influences, and that all the money he may make will cost him dearly, and will not counterbalance the evil. — We must pray over this my dear wife. We have no worldly wealth to bequeath our children, and must do all in our power to leave them stored with good principles and well cultivated minds. Eggyie has just kissed me 'good night.' Sandy, love to mother and wants you to kiss the baby for her; and wishes it was a girl.

Have you found a name? Suppose we call him John XI. or John Mack, or John. He is a young uncle, is he not? Does he appear to be proud of his uncleship? Do tell me what kind of a looking chap he is? Has he a good crop of hair? He certainly is a month old and sh^d be very bright. Last think of 12½ lbs avoirdupois. Malcolm's weight when he was a month old. Kiss the darling for me.

Good night. May God bless & keep you both.

Your loving husband

Remember me to Mrs. Hall & Miss Hutchinson.
H. P. Van Cleave.
Let me know when I must come for you.

Mrs. Colman Blake
Little Falls,

N.

4. 12. 60.

Long Prairie Mar 29 1859

My own dear wife

Your letter was handed to me yesterday by a soldier, and you may suppose I opened it with some little perturbation, for I hoped it might tell me that the looked for stranger had arrived. It gladdened my heart however to find you in good spirits and comfortably situated with pleasant neighbors.

I wrote to you by yesterday's mail enclosing a letter from our dear Seymour & in a separate envelope enclosed letters from Malcolm & Mat I trust you have received them to day.

W. Olmstead arrived today and as he returns to morrow gives me an opportunity to send you word respecting the family. The children are as lively & noisy as ever, but darling the house is dull without you. When I come in I miss your sweet face, and when sitting here in our room my darling wife is not here to talk to me. We get along as well as you can expect. The washing was done yesterday, and this afternoon the girls have been riding horse back. Sizzie came in just now in fine glow. She finds that she has gained considerable courage in riding.

Mr Conrad happened in soon after your
letter arrived and I read your message
to him. — So you attended the dance, did
you? Pretty well Mrs Candler, for one of respecti-
bility; your age too; & then your situation. I'd
not go in. Don't tell me, When you go to the
theater it is not necessary to mount the stage.
Very well, Mrs Candler. Your husband too, far
from you, shedding tears over your absence.
I didn't think of my tears. Don't tell me. What
could I be doing if wasn't shedding tears? Having
a jollification with the officers! Yes, I wish I
had been jollifying. Breaking my heart in
this way. And then gossiping with the
young gentlemen. Pretty business. Oh
I wish there were some young ladies here
I would show you. Very well, Mrs Candler.

I am glad you have got rid of that loose
tooth. Nope no more are coming out. We must
try to see if we cannot cure those gums.

Paul was in just now. I asked if he had
any word to send to mother. He said, 'Write to
mother and tell her to bring me a little blotter
or little sister'. He is a sweet boy. He & Sam
sleep with me.

Oh that I could hear that your mother

Long Prairie Minn

Mar 28, 1859

Free

H. P. Van Cleave
P. M.

Mrs Charlotte O. Van Cleave

Little Falls

Minn.

Long Prairie Mar 27, 1859.

My dear Darling wife.

My late start from Little Falls gave me a late ride, I did not reach home till 11 o'clock. All were in bed and asleep. I put the horses in the stable, fed them; came into the house via window; Made a fire; unpacked the coffee board, found some cakes, for my supper, which I ate and washed down with some Cold ready made tea to warm my blood. No one about the house knew of my arrival until they got up next morning. I had a dreary ride without you; and it is dreary at home without you. We miss you at home, darling; yes, we miss you.

The mail brought a letter from our dear far off boy, I am from Mat which I send you.

I am from Mr Brewster saying that the Long Prairie Co. had just had a meeting and had voted to employ Mr Risley to take charge of their property here & develop it (that you can keep to yourself till we learn something more definite.) and had written to him. Will write to me again as soon as they hear from him.

Also a letter from Hoover, apologizing,

for his misconduct, lamenting over it, begging pardon; says he took a three days drunk to get rid of his sorrow & has shed tears twenty times over it.

Most sends a Tribune containing his report of a great sale of negroes at Savannah Georgia. I send it by this mail.

I found the children all well; they are as lively, cheerful, merry & noisy as ever. Have raked their heads and find them clean.

The officers are well. Took dinner with them today. St Leonard was here last evening & had one of his rumps with the children. Said he had been here occasionally during my absence and straightened up the children.

The Cattle, horses, pigs, chickens, cats & dogs are all doing well.

Russel tells me that Mr Mills leaves tomorrow for a more genial climate.

Russel is doing very well; is learning to milk, takes good care of every thing and keeps sober.

Amelia is very industrious and tries to keep the house tidy, but finds it a hard task, there are so many running out & in bringing in snow and sand & mud.

Lizzie says they have followed your advice in cooking and have done very well. They baked some cookies yesterday, but not being ^{so} cake hungry I have not tasted them. — As much for

home news. I must add that the children all miss you, and want to know when mother is coming home. — You see from our dear far off boy's letter, that he just learned that God has taken from us his dear sister. Poor boy, he feels his loss, and his need of a comforter, of sympathizing friends. May God take care of him and give him heavenly comfort. Oh that he were with us. How sad to learn of such sorrow among cold hearted strangers, who are entirely indifferent to our sad bereavements.

Most appears to have had a very delicate & laborious task in reporting the negro sale. It is probable that he would have met with rough treatment, if his business had been known. I judge from his report that he passed himself off for a buyer; occasionally made a bid.

Our precious child, Mark, is growing finely & has many friends. — Cliff is expected back soon, when can we look for our dear boy.

I have now spoken of children & servants; cattle & horses, dogs & cats. — Of you, I have said nothing. I could give you no news respecting yourself, but I think of you my dear ling, Perhaps at this moment you are suffering agonies. May God, our Heavenly Father help you my precious one, take care of you and preserve you and restore you to your husband and children soon. I feel very anxious about you. Hope to

hear good news from you soon.

You must keep up good courage & spirits. Do not worry about us at home. We get along very well. The letters I enclose to you give you good news from our dear absent ones; that is, we learn that they are well. Our poor boy feels the want of sympathizing friends in his service. God will take care of him; and may He sanctify this bereavement to him. I feel that I am lamentably neglectful of the religious education of my children. I fear I may have a sad account to give of my stewardship. You must pray for me darling. I sh^d be more faithful than I am. — I hope you find the ladies at Little Falls sociable. If you need Lizzie let me know. ~~God~~ must not let any opportunity slip of sending me a line. I want to hear from you many times every day. The fact is I cannot bear to have you away from me, particularly at such a time. You are in the hands of our kind Heavenly Father. He will take care of you. Lizzie sends her love to you. I send a great deal of love. Give my respects to Mr & Mrs Alt & their niece.

Good night darling. May God bless you and comfort you, ever prays your loving husband, H. W. Van Cleve.

Long Prairie

Mar 20 1859

Mrs Charlotte D. D. Lee

Little Falls

Minn.

1859

Reynolds Mill Feb. 9

My Dear Parents

Sunday 6th
I received your letter

dated Dec 14th and was very glad
to hear from you & to hear that
you were all well at Long
Island. But on Monday
heard news from Brooklyn
and Oh my dear parents
you cannot tell how I
felt out here in this cold
hearted country with no
one to sympathize with
me I do so want to hear
from you and hear how
you bear this our great
affliction write a good long
comforting letter my dear
dear parents for you don't
know how I feel and
of your letters would be
such a comfort to me
I do so want to see you
all it is hard to have

to live so far away from
one another if it not but
I suppose that the good
God that watches over us
for now is what is for our
good does he not mother
write a long letter in answer
to this will you. It is now
about 1/2 past ten and I
have been working hard all
day and am very tired
so you will excuse the
short letter will you not
I forgot about this time
that the letter carrier come
and find out to night
that if I wanted to write
to you I should have to
do so to night I am in
the sleeping room to night
~~right~~ writing and it
is a very bad place to
write give my love to all
kiss all the children for
me and remember me
always, your affectionate
son, Muel Colman.

I will write you a long
letter next time and
tell you just how I feel
you must not think
hard of me for this short
note will you good by
I am affectionate son
Muel Colman

The children have gone out to enjoy it.

A moderate sized Spy glass, substantiated, but not expensive, and a corresponding microscope would be useful and interesting. The former in hunting the herds of cattle, the latter in studying plants & insects. We can dispense with them if you are short of funds.

You need not look for any more letters, directed to St. Louis. In fact I have been drafted to look after you and Mrs. Wheeler may hand you one at St. Paul.

I suppose you will learn our darling Lizzie somewhere at school. My heart bleeds at the idea of a long separation from the dear child. When it is not for her good, I do not entertain the idea for a moment. Who will bring father's chain for him now when he comes on in the evening, and hand him his slippers, and threaten to cut off his beard when he falls asleep in said chair, when said beard is over half a foot long? Who will go with father to look at the horses and pet Bessie and put her arms around Bessie's neck, and let Bessie rest her head on his hand, and feed Bessie her oats and corn and bread? Bessie has grown very much this summer and looks very handsome and I intend to have her trained for Lizzie's special use, and have a bridle and side saddle to fit nicely so that when Lizzie does come back to father she may ride when she pleases & where she pleases.

[Sept. 25, 1859]

May God bless the darling child and take care of her and restore her to her good old father in his own good time. I hope she will feel the importance of applying closely to her studies and making the best use of her time and opportunities.

She has never yet been taught hard study since 1. She is far behind those of her age that she will be associated with, and she has acquired from books, but she has brains and I trust she will make good use of them. She must write her every thing, if she has time to do so but five lines.

I shall wait with much impatience for the Tuesday mail, for I am very anxious to get your New York letter. I want to hear all your news about our dear Maria and Munk and Mark. I think I must see Mark before we get you still more. Kiss him for Grandfather a great many times. Does she look like his precious mother. I want to know when your Cousin Siggie is school. I will be content with very nearly what you may send for I know you will do what you find is best for our dear child.

Ed: I hope we will have the house put in order before your return, but then you have been interrupted by hay making, and Amos has been used to mow. We expect to commence work on the place with four or five men. I trust it will be but a short job, and that we can then set ourselves earnestly at work to regulate the house, that your dear Mary may

Look Comfortless have you seen it again?

Good night my precious wife, Give much
Love to all for me.

Your loving husband

A. P. Van Curen

Long Prairie Minn,

March 1859

free

H. H. Van Cleave

Mrs C. O. Van Cleave

Little Falls

Min.

Long Prairie April 3 1857

My dear Mother

I have followed your advice in all the cooking. yester day I ~~cooked~~ made some macaroni but I did not get enough milk in it. I made some blancmange too.

Paul says he wants to see Mother and night before last the Lieutenant was over here and Father asked him Paul why he wanted you he said that he wanted you to bring ~~the~~ ^{his} brother & sister & how Father and the Lieutenant did laugh

Amelia was very much pleased with the dress & ribbon

Sergeant Mc Laughlin, thinks he will leave next Monday but does not know yet. dont forget to bring half a dozen bottles of essence of lemon I want it to put in blancmange

I can not think of any thing more to say this time so

Good bye your little
girl Lizzie

Long Prairie Apr. 3. 1859

1 o'clock P.M. Mercury +28°

Wind, West. Sky, Clear

My own dear wife.

Here I am, in our room; Siggie opposite to me writing to dear mother, Paul at the end of the table scribbling with a pencil; Sam, Nathan & Mollie playing on the lounge; Brownie, sitting on the window sill washing her face; Seymour, Mortie, & the rest of the family in the opposite room. But my dear wife, the light of the house oh how I miss her. Dear Hannie's face looks down on me, so sweet, so loving, so mournful. Mort too is looking at me with a sorrowful smile.

The Prairie is covered with its winter robe, which I am anxiously wishing to see cast off, for my cattle & horses are on very short allowance. Yesterday was a regular winter day, cold, stormy. April appears to have changed places with December. - Long Prairie is quiet. The officers are well. St Conrad was here and spent an hour or two this morning. Sergeant McGlaughlin intends the latter part of this week. The St asked me if I was going to the Falls again this week. I told him I wanted to, but did not like to leave home. - I am very anxious to hear from you today. The little stranger, Suncy has

arrived by this time; and must I wait till Tuesday before I can hear from you? It seems a long time. And you too must wait till Tuesday before you can hear from home. When I think how hard it is to bear your absence, I cannot endure the thought of your going East. But I suppose it must be. My dear wife, we have lived together too long to be separated in this way. Twenty three years my precious one, and every day more precious to me. Two more years and we can celebrate our Silver wedding. — I have not yet written to Malcolm but intend to do so today. Will hope to send news of you by this letter. He must wait however till I get news before I can send it.

We have had no visitors from abroad since I was last at the Falls; Have had no mail since the one I brought up; and nothing of interest has transpired here, saving that Royie had a calf the day I left home. I see too that she is blind in one eye. Have an idea that some scoundrel has given her a blow on it. The calf is a fine one, and she gives a good mess of milk. The weather has been so cold that the girls have not been able to make much butter. The St brought some at the Falls for 30¢ when he was down. I told him we could supply him hereafter. He said he was glad of it.

The girls get along very well. I fear we will be obliged to purchase a Cook Stove. The oven of

our present one collapsed yesterday and we have to send our biscuit to the Company Cook house, to be baked. I cannot well afford a new stove just now. Seymour was very much pleased with your letter. It was the first thing he asked for on my return. I read it to him, and today he read most of it aloud to me. Some words he found it difficult to make out. He will soon learn to read your writing, with a little practice. If this dear boy of ours is properly trained he will make a bright man. I think he has more intelligence than 9/10th of the community. — My great anxiety now is to educate my children properly. A good education is all that we can give them and that we must give them. By education I do not mean merely book learning. I wish them all to have good, practical, education, with enough knowledge of books to fit them for any station or occupation.

I have not yet had an opportunity to send Mr Reid's traps to the River & report it. He may think I am indifferent about it.

I want to go East with you. How can we manage it? Who will furnish the funds & take care of the children during our absence? How would it answer for me to go & bring Matt & the baby? — Speaking of babies, I wish you to kiss our little darling for me. Take good care of it and of yourself. I am very anxious about you, and find

it hard waiting to hear from you. I wish I
could send you some cheering news, something
to cheer you up. You must let it cheer you to
learn that we are all well as usual & getting
along as well as to be expected, you being absent.
You must not think I am too spirited, but I
cannot but miss you. — I believe I must stop
writing now & go to see the Capt & Lt a few min-
utes.

8 1/2 P.M. I have returned from my visit
of a few minutes to the officers. Found I left them
well. The little ones are well & asleep. Digger
Seymour & Walter were preparing to retire. I have
promised on Seymour to take a book & sit
by me while I write to you & Malcolm.
I have 4 boys sleep with me. They are sweet
little bedfellows, but give me no peace when
they wake in the morning. They do not appear
of any taking a second nap.

I will look for good news from you on
Tuesday. Take good care of yourself. Have
you named the little one. I want to call it
Dottie. Kiss her for me every time she wakes.
Say hello with me of his sweet smiles, says
you my love to mother. May God bless you
my darling. I try to pray for you my pre-
cious one.

Your loving husband

St. W. Van Cleve