



James C. Christie and Family Papers

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April
Cincinnati, 4th 1865. Sunday Morning

~~My Dear Friend~~

As it has been some time since
you last wrote, I expected one year, it will not long
I suppose you wrote to me by the return of the
Steamer Great Lyon. But the fearful Calamity of her
wreck on her return, likely explains the long interval
of letters to me. Still, there is no excuse for your not knowing
how we are. I expect your illness is now some time
past, and you are well. I had a letter from you last night
considering the danger of the war. I was left
But the illness. But I do not feel very much
Great Calamity. We will have more peace and
less poverty while there is war, which will not
be changed by war. I have full faith in
the continual Providence of God being over us all
at all times, and that only is permitted to
occur which is the general consequence of
the war for us, and all others. We will take a
very large portion of our lost property back
and we will see all the war. We will know that to be
true which have the only way to be so. (Wm. L. Garrison
& J. F. Smith.) Let out your faith
in the loving care of God, and His power to
us through the instrumentality of our friends
who have gone before us, and your friends.

My Dear Sir, I know that you will
into this work as actively as the Convention and the
Cause of Temperance. No doubt you will also
from a youthful love of Liberty, and a desire
to be in the ranks of the great
Great Campaign. I believe you will receive
all for which you have been, and the end of this
affair will take you before you are aware of it.

My hope is that you must not have
the temptation to acquire any habits that
will impair your in later future life, indeed
I do not think you can. But cannot help
take educational spirit to be on a high level
you are agreed to all the rules of your spiritual
exercise. But I must tell you some
more. Tell them to our friend is here our brother
John a month. John Schaller is here today
on a visit. Tell Frederick with his letter.
to you through your hand the taking of Mobile.

Now to be sure, did you get those letters
from the same point, at "Landing"? They of them
were to be of Senator Smith in relation to
your transfer? You know there you will
find & know all the trouble! And about that
I am sure let you know all he knows about & will be
very happy, that I believe will be the only
key to your happiness when you meet him.
John Schaller tells me to remind you of him just
now, as is our friend from Hospital at Prairie
La Poudre.

Today Sunday I do not
feel fit to write or I would send you a letter
more to your liking. I am not so well, but
lack the leisure to write you a letter to
mention the importance of writing at once
after leaving where you are in by a wire for using
it. We are just ready now to get letters to the
West. I have and have before these got out all the
strength of the storm, and so far are no worse
John Schaller a letter to you soon, hoping you will
not be. I believe you know all the great news
of our friends, and will feel the great thrill
to be the loved one of the day. The President
has made such a name for our friends.
We are long will decide to take their stand
before the Union. I must not tell you to write
me in due time affectionately. J. Schaller

1866

Notice is hereby given to all
 the legal voters in the town of
 Rapidan that there will be a petition
 before the supervisors in said town for the
 laying out of a road running as follows
 Commencing at the Quarter post between
 26 West 21st and 27th twenty seven rods
 west to the town line passing on the
 of Martin, Stratton & Chamberlain & below
 E. J. Palmer Mr Scott Mr Rice and
 ended at Rapidan this first day of June
 A.D. 1866

16			
10			
760	21		Supine furnished 182 lumber
14165	4		
14	84		
	754		
	838		
	42		
	880	1062	

Notice of Valuation of Real Estate.

To

Winnebago County, Wisconsin.

You are hereby notified that I have appraised the following described Real Estate, to wit:

DESCRIPTION.	SEC. LOT.	TOWNSHIP. BLOCK.	RANGE.	VALUATION.

Total Valuation, \$
Appraiser

Dated 1859.

The Board of Equalization of said will meet at
on the day of at o'clock
M., to correct and equalize the Assessment Roll, and will continue in session from day to day
until the same is completed.

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Appraiser

[1866]

NOTICE.

To *William Steyer*.....

You are hereby notified that you have been assessed for the year 1866,

On Personal Property,.....\$ *322*.....

On Real Property,.....\$ *1190*.....

And you are further notified that the County Board of Equalization will meet at Mankato, on the first Tuesday of September next.

.....*Jacob Langer*.....ASSESSOR.

1866

Know all men by these presents, That —
 — as principal and — —
 as surety, are hereinafter firmly bound unto
 School District No. — in Blue Earth County,
 in the sum of — dollars, to be paid
 unto said School District, its attorney or assignee,
 for which payment well and truly to be made, the
 jointly and severally bind themselves, their heirs
 executors, and administrators, firmly by these
 presents.

Sealed with our seals and dated this — day
 of — 1866,

The consideration of this obligation is such,
 that whereas the said — has been elected
 Treasurer of said School District No. — Now the-
 fore if the said — shall well and truly perform
 all the duties of said office according to the provisions
 of the Law, then this obligation shall be void, oth-
 erwise remain in full force and virtue.

23

1800
 45
 120
 150
 75
 150
 600
 450
 525
 60
 65
 300
 150
 44.90

Wash Street

Wash Street

Front Street

Minnesota River

[1866]

School Teachers Contract

Article of Agreement made
between Emma Smith of
the first part and the Board
of School District No 69.

The party of the first part
agrees to teach the school
in said district for the term
of four months commencing
the 4th day of June 1866 as
required by law.

The parties of the second
part agrees to pay Emma
Smith for services as teacher
the sum of three dollars per
week for the term as above
specified

Emma Smith

W. B. Stevens District Clerk
Martin M Stratton Treasurer

Sparta, January, 2nd. 1866

Dear Uncle

[James Christie] I take

this opportunity to send you a few lines to let you know where I am and what my success has been since I was last at your house. - I did not start on my journey so quick as was talked when in Clyman but Charles and myself came out to Henry's and spent one week in trapping. We got 5 Mink and, 21

Muck-Rate which we sold in Columbia at the astonishing price of 1 dollar for Muck and 31^{cts} for Rate. The whole amounting to 44 dollars and 30^{cts}. - I was on the road in that cold weather - but without overcoat endured the cold first-rate. But I was destined to meet with a disappointment with regard to the object of my journey. For I found by reference to the County Records that there was no title on record for the land I wished to purchase. Mr. Sherborn the agent with whom the contract was made could not show for the 40 acres of timber a single line corner stake nor get the first scratch of a pen in the shape of a title neither on record nor yet in his own possession. Under these circumstances he and myself had some pretty sharp talk and he

paid me back the 25 dollars that I had paid him on the land and 25 dollars forfeiture on the contract - So you will see that I have returned without the land. There was about 18 inches of snow in the woods out there and the weather so cold that I determined not to go any further. My health is good.

Luther's folks are all well except Minnie she has had an attack of congestion of the Lungs; but is better now. I get no certain intelligence from Fenther.

Shall probably be in Chymass again soon.

Yours in haste

Osgood, J. Stoy

to her something of my life on this trip, and if so
I will gratify you. And first as to my
Comrades. - Edmund came on to the survey,
(which I did by taking the place of a young
friend of mine who went to go to St. Paul,
and of whom I will tell you more something
our party consisted of six. - Mr. Dodge (the
Chief Engineer of the Union & St. Peter R.R.),
Mr. Jenkins, (the surveyor) Mr. Wingham,
(a seaman), Johnson Hancock (a Civil Engineer),
Peter Grogg, (Chamman) and myself ditto.
Mr. Dodge staid with us but a few days,
when he went back to town, leaving Jenkins
in charge. He (Dodge) is one of the best
of men, and altogether the best Mathematician
I ever talked with. He is from Vermont, has
been Principal of the High School in Mon-
roe, N.H. and in other educational es-
tablishments, and is now about forty.

He is completely posted in all the depart-
ments of Science, and can talk as well
and as easily of Chemistry, Natural
Philosophy, Astronomy and the languages

as he can our Mathematics which is proving
his forte especially. He explained to
us one evening the principles that govern
the action of the Gyroscop, that curious
mechanical wonder that, you remember,
Regard Taper once showed us, which
seemed to set the attractions of gravitation at
defiance. I will remember the formula
he used to explain it to Father when I en-
ticed him. With all his knowledge Dodge is no
pedant, but is full of funny stories and
quaint old jokes. I always contrived
to get him talking on some scientific subject
for his explanations are so familiar and
easy understood that a child would be
instructed by them. When I turned to him
I felt more than ever how true is the saying
that "Knowledge is power," and regret my
own want of opportunity in times past.
As much for Mr. Dodge, and now about
Jenkins, with whom we have been more
acquainted, as he has been with us from
the start, all the time; and is, in fact,

the Surveyor of the route. He is a young man (28) but has seen about as much of the world as the next one; Born near Cape Cod, educated in Boston, and in the West and South for eight years. He ran the line of the Northwestern from Jacksonville up, and knows as much of Chymann as I do almost, Ran the line of the Columbian R.R. has surveyed Govt. land in this State has spent two years in Silver Peak, where he made his pile one summer, and went to bed one night in the Fall with the intention of sitting out next day for the States, but up in consequence an hour earlier than usual next morning, which was all that saved his life, for he had scarcely gone out doors when his house and everything he had was washed except into the Platte by the breaking away of the dam above there, by which he had turned the current of one of the tributaries of that river, and had mined in the drift bed. All he was left of everything he had was a broken gold pan that was washed ashore down the river, and so he came back from Colorado poorer than he went. He has been in New Mexico, in Utah in California, in Washington Territory, and indeed in nearly every part of America. Has two years Capt. of the Military R.R. near Little Rock Ark. from whence he

came only a few weeks ago.

With all his experience, he is one of the best tempered, good natured fellows I ever came across, and willing to tell anything that will be of advantage to others.

He has known a great many things in regard to the practical part of the profession, and I often set up, adjist and level his frame for him now.

He is a regular New Englander, a well educated one, with his natural intelligence sharpened by Western experiences.

We all like him, and it is the indication of his kindly disposition to know that he has never yet spoken a cross or impatient word to any of us, though we were all "green" when we started with him. But I must hasten my description or my sketch will not hold all I have to say.

Mr Kingsbury is from Maine last Fall, and all Western things are strange to him. He is one forty, has an interesting family in Maine, with whom I am well acquainted, and is himself a fine, honest & simple good old gentleman.

He and I have bunked together from the start and we are both Chairman now, he the "tally" and I the "admirer", or "Red" Chairman.

Harwick played out soon after I came, one acct. of the cold, and so I will say nothing of him, but come to Guy, with whom I had the little adventure alluded to in a former letter. This fellow was the one

Black Chap in the flock, a man who had been twice in the army, in the States, and who told so many ^{dramatic} stories of the way he got out and of his life in Canada that I am convinced he is a Doctor.

When we left this place going down, we took a team and driver from here, and the driver, a young fellow just out of the 3^d Mc. Cavalry, bunked with Guy.

At the Four Mile House, near Aniakchak, Lewis - the teamster, - was robbed of fifty dollars by some one who took out the money and replaced the pocket book so that it was not discovered for two days that the theft had been committed.

Our suspicions fell upon Guy, and Lewis had him searched but to no purpose, and then had him arrested and the sheriff searched him. Then we all had to go to La Croix, the rest of us as witnesses, but those could do nothing more, and so we went back to the F. M. House, leaving Guy in La X

that we were going to search him - for it.

At this he became furious, and swore to kill us if we touched him, But we were not to be put off, and after a great deal of talk and bluster he finally agreed that I should search him, This I did taking off all his clothes but his pants, and feeling of everything carefully.

I knew some how, that the fellow had it on him, in spite of appearances, but I had looked over every thing except one leg of his pants, and so yet had seen nothing. At this juncture I tried a little stratagem, saying to Lewis "I don't think he has it on him Ike." Looking up suddenly after this I noticed an instant look in Lewis' eyes, and thought to myself "Old chap, you have got it with you sure." Searched down the pant leg carefully, while the thief began to shake as if with the ague, and sure enough within two inches of the bottom I put my finger into a little crack in the cloth and out came the three bills. Upon never saw so delighted a chap as Lewis was, while my broke down completely, and I showed so much penitence that Ike let him off without punishment. We went to Union a that night, Kingsbury and I footing it up from here (12 miles). My paper is out though I could talk to you all night, I must close.

Have heard nothing from Sandy for a long time, and if you know where he is send him this, I hope he is coming down as soon as he can.

This was on a Friday, and the next day was stormy so Jenkins gave us permission to go to Winona, (26 miles) and we set out with the team, with which Lewis was going to Trempealeau for horse feed. At Amsterdam - 12 miles above La Crosse, we stopped to warm and the first man we saw in the tavern was Guy, who had come up from S. Co. in the night. Lewis found out that he was going to Winona, and offered him a ride as far as Trempealeau. This the fellow accepted, and we again set out. But at the next place we stopped to warm which was at the Black River ferry, he said he would go no further.

Lewis had driven the team quite a distance after this before I persuaded him to try some bold measures to recover his money, but I finally convinced him and so we turned back to the house in which Guy was, much to his astonishment, no doubt. Lewis and I told him that we were sure he had the money, and

Winona Minn.

February 1st /66.

My dear Father:

Your favor of the 26th Ult. I recd. this morning, and am glad to once more get a real long letter from you. For of late they have been rather on the brief order. I have recd. nothing from Sandy since the first letter, though I have written him several, and don't like his silence a bit. I do not think the reasons for his staying out there, to which you allude, are half sufficient, when every dictate of common sense indicates that he should be at home with you, or else improving his time in preparing for the brilliant future that lies before

him. I know, and feel, that there is a better life before Sandy and myself than would be entailed on us in the event of our squatting on Homestead on the frontier, among people to whose plane of thought and feeling we never could descend and be true to ourselves. I, for one, will not descend, and I will never place myself in a position where all the better part of myself will be starved to death, for my capabilities, such as thou art, were given to be used and improved, and I feel that I possess that which fits me for something better than aimless, soul-dwarfing, blood-sucking existence merely.

I shall plan a course that will ~~will~~ give some scope to the exercise of the higher and nobler faculties of my nature, and in

this I will feel that I am only doing my duty. What happiness do you suppose I would take were I to settle on a piece of land with my small capital, and half kill myself with manual labor in securing enough to eat and drink, while all the better part of my nature dwindles away for want of exercise. I will not be dragged down in this way, for there is other food just as necessary to my well being and happiness as that which I put into my mouth, and I feel that a true life has other demands than merely a sufficiency of bodily aliment.

You cannot blame me, nor think me to be arrogating to myself a superiority I do not possess, when I tell you that I do know myself to be superior, in brain power at least, to the men I see around me every day, and my determination is that this

superiority shall bring its just
consequence, in superior social
position and a field of action
^{in proportion} ~~equal~~ to my ambition and my
capabilities. You cannot
say that this is wrong, for in
speaking as I do, and in ~~proposing~~
as I propose to do, I am but following
the dictates of that which has been
implanted in me, and which I
am as cognizant of as I am of
my own identity.

You will ask, naturally,
what practical results these gen-
eralities I have indulged in, in-
dicate, and what course I propose
to follow to reduce them to tangible
~~results~~ realities; Well, then, I am
going to devote myself to a profession,
and that profession is to be Civil
Engineering; to prepare myself for
which I intend to go to College as soon
as practicable, and when I am once

master of that. I have no fears of the future. I am now getting an insight into the practical and theoretical work that will be of great advantage when I take up the study of the Science formally; and have already come to the conclusion, with you, that that disappointment of mine was all for the best, as it was the turning point in my life.

You perhaps wonder how I make these plans coincide with the calculations you have heard of in regard to my settling down in the Spring. All I will say at present is that you need not be too sure of welcoming another Daughter in Law very soon; That dream is over, and perhaps for the best, alas, It would be a long story to explain, and I will not attempt it at present. I get my

eyes opened to things I could not disregard and retain a share of self-respect, and so we quarrelled in earnest. This was about the time of my other difficulties, and as you need not wonder if I felt a little sour, and hostile to all Man-kind about that period, I am over it all now, and can look at things reasonably.

I do not want you to let every one read this letter, as I have intended it for yourself and Mother and would not like even the whole of our own family to see it,

I bore a good deal, until I was perfectly satisfied that forbearance had ceased to be a virtue, and then I spoke my mind.

I will have no one playing fast and loose in such matters with me. So there was a general crash of fancy architecture that I had

been raising on airy foundations, and Lesson No 1 in that Book is mastered. I hope the next will be an easier one.

Now do not sacrifice Sandy's prospects for the sake of settling Wm in life, for it is neither just nor proper that you should do so.

What bolstering up should Wm need, with all his advantages,

I should think he would be only too anxious and eager to tackle with the contingencies of Life, now that he has some one dependent on him, and assisting him also.

The only way is to make him stand erect by compelling him to rely on his own resources, and I have confidence enough in his capabilities to feel sure he can swim well enough without the bladders if he only thinks so. Recall Mr as soon as you can, and try to

give him a better start in life than
letting him go on to a summer
for five of the best years of his life
in the way of Opportunity.

I met with a little
accident today, by stooping very sud-
denly to adjust a "point" at the same
time that a comrade in front of me
raised his axe from the ground. The
cant of the helve brought its end in
violent contact with my left tem-
ple, almost knocking me down and
making me lose more blood than I
did in four years service.
My eye looks now as if I had
been in bad company lately,
but will be all right by the time
you see this. We came to town
last night and will board
here perhaps a week. Are estab-
lishing the line now.
My love to all whom
we both hold dear and don't
fail to write at length.
Yrs truly Thos. D. Christie

Winona Feb 16

Clyman Feb 2^d 1866

My Dear Tom

Your letter to Dave
Received last night. I am glad
to hear from you, no difference
who you may write to.

Your descriptions
Braggs his fragments relating
to your Company, are quite
interesting. But the determination
expressed by you in following out
that theft and recovering the prom
fellow's money, is nearly amazing

Tom I tremble for you
if ever you should be so far left
to your self as to take a vicious
course. You are "thorough"

You have great force and
tenacity of purpose. which I am
afraid will in spite of the best
intentions, sometimes lead
you too far. (I should have written
Impel)

I was looking at your Photograph
lately with a microscopic Glass
and could as clear as day read
the intense determination
of your spirit. Combative-ness
destructiveness and Timidity
are marked features of your
internal spirit. There are the
Executive Qualities of the soul,
and if not Guided and Governed
by Reflective intellect and
Moral feeling, are fearful
it is certain that you will
Drive things through life
But not Necessarily to a
Successfull issue? (Success
meaning) Great or Good purposes
But I also think that you
are ingenuous, open and
Frank, You must Cultivate
Charitable, lenient feelings
towards others, and prudence
in all your actions.

excuse all this. or rather,
Thank God you have somebody
to tell you just what they think
I have no fear for you, unless
you should happen to follow
through ignorance and inexperience
a wrong purpose. There is so
much of the Torrier in you, and
Scottish at that, a power of Concentration
of the Faculties to the immediate Object
The very Qualities in which William
is deficient in are yours in Excess.

You may do well to note
these things. You have passed from
beyond my Restraint. But if you
had been thrashed and abused in
your Boyhood you would have
been an undone Boy.

Go ahead. But Be
very, very sure that you are right
when you intend doing anything
of importance, and indeed everything
is of importance

first look at it as Accomplished
and then see if it is what you think
it is to be, taking a view of its
Consequences. But what of your
immediate prospects, and when
are you coming to see Home?

I believe you do not know I

You now begin to see
that you have been a little
precipitate in your action
is it not so?

Now I fully sympathize with you
in all your feelings, and can just
see where you are. I am with
you to any amount of personal
sacrifice, is all that is right.

Now is Minnie?

Give her my respects, and say
that I am anxious to see her
and Love her also -

William starts
on Monday for Minnesota to try
and look him up a Thorne.
If you can be of any service to him
I pray you to be right yourself in
his favor. We will look you up

I heard to day that the stages
route through Western Minnesota
is now open. Which implies that
it had been shut, explaining
I hope surely, long silence

I presume it is as
you say in reference to the Chippewas
it is too far away for all it is North
on the edge of the Desert. as far to
the Locust like all the Countries
Bordering Deserts is fertile Land
But I suspect you felt like being
unsuccessful and put it through

Sam & need not stay there
longer than Spring. I much need
him. But yielded for his good
as I thought. I trust he may
come home in health. feeling
partially gratified that longing
for Freedom and the Romance
of the Border. There is not
much to it even near by

I now anticipate getting
a letter from Sandy. You will hear
from him also. But in my last
letter to him I entreated him
to stay there until William came
at least to give him a help along.

Now you must write to him
(Sandy) to let him know that William
has again changed his mind, and is
not going out there. That is the
great trouble with William that
he has no definite purpose at any
time which is not as likely to be
changed for another equally uncertain.
He being carried about like a ~~leaf~~
in a gale of wind. I trust he will
soon get the last puff that will
lodge him in some corner where
he will settle long enough to
prosper, and root in his own
nook or corner - I would like

But I am feeling as if you
also could be mixed clearly

What you were going to do
I do not think you would have
been any nearer your purpose
if you had succeeded with these
horses, and beg of you not to
regret that any longer.

Dislike as you know teaching
school, and I generally do in her
either up, or down once a day, and
sometimes both ways. I do
attend school, and William
does my chores and does them
pretty faithfully. I trust he may
~~soon~~ get settled, and put in
master some care on his own
account. There is not much
news here about. Your Cousin
will get kicked in the face
with an unbroken 3 year old Colt
got off pretty easily, and is all
right again. There is a continual
succession of horses run here

and would ever to a great many
of them, and none take same
with her. I do not wish to
to acquire a love for such things,
But she will go. I cannot stop
it, and scarce know how to do
Because I would rather have
Dad be with her, than her go
alone. Mother and I are about
as usual.

Please Write often
and give me the chance to Reply
to you. for I really have
little that interests me, only
what is connected with my
Children. Uncle William

Folks are as usual. Your
Uncle Tom, getting into his
old habits again.

take the foregoing of my
letter as intended you should
for instructions. You may not
think as I do. Yours Affectionately
James Christie

Trompeau & Hiel

Sunday Feb 11th 1866

My Dear Alexander,

I have been long awaiting a letter from you and have long put off writing in order to answer it, but now has come, and I am beginning to be anxious on your acct. I have recd. but one letter from you since leaving you, and that came more than six weeks ago. Since then I have written twice, and still no answer. The only cause for your silence that I think probable is the deep snow which you must have, as we have here, and which may have put a stop to the mails. They tell me from home, also, that they have

had nothing from you for a long
time, and you can imagine how
anxious for this will be.

I have a great deal to write to
you in this, and shall write it
though I think it somewhat
risky as to your ever getting
it.

I am still on the R.R.
Survey, and will stay on it till
about the end of this month, when
I will go to Chyman, now in
the best health I have seen since
going into the army, and weigh
160 pounds. I have been at
work steadily since I wrote you
first from here, and am now fur-
ther all preliminary embarrass-
ments, thanks to most but my-
self. I might as well tell you
also that I am still single, and
likely to remain so for an in-
definite period, as M. and I
have quarrelled and separated.

I need not enter into details, but
will merely say that I thought she
was conducting herself in a manner
which I deemed inconsistent with
the relations in which we stood to
each other, and when things came
to the point at which forbearance
ceased to be a virtue, I gave her
my ideas on things in general,
and flirtation in particular,
and so there was a scene, and
we parted. This happened about
the time of my disappointment
on the horse bargain, and you will
not wonder at my feeling angry
toward all Creation at that pe-
riod. I am over it all now,
though, and am glad to say that
I am not yet a Wisanthrop, though
I thought I was at that time.

My plans in life are now
three. - I will study for the pro-
fession of Civil Engineering, and

become a surveyor. When I
have made money enough at
that to enable me to farm as I
wish to, I will become a farmer,
and not till then. My capital
is too small at present for any-
thing, and I am not going to
wear out the best part of my life
in struggling with the difficulties
and discouragements attending him
who starts into farming, or any
other business requiring means
without anything. Such a life
may do very well for one whose
sole dependence is on his own labors
and savings. — I refer particularly
to a life spent in conquering a
farm from the wilderness, but
I claim to possess a share of
bravery, have social tastes, and
a little ambition, which would
make such an existence perfectly
miserable to me, though it might
do very well for a Bob Brown or a

1870-71 & 1871-72

My dear boy, I have just received your letter of the 11th inst. and I am very glad to hear of your progress. I am sure you will be a great blessing to the world. I am, your father, Fred Matt.

It is contrary to the natural law that a man of your capabilities and lofty aspirations should place himself in the same social scale with Jack Taylor and Silvernail, which you would inevitably do were you to squat on the frontier.

No, no, my Boy, you and I were intended for better things, and we are committing a sin if we do not use the talent that God has given us instead of burying it in the ground, for whatever capabilities we have were intended to be improved, to elevate us, and enlarge our power of doing good to our fellow men. Of course, we do good by assisting to clear up the wilderness, but it is a task for which others are better fitted than ourselves, and a

benefit entirely incommensurate with that which we have the power of rendering in other and better ways.

Now I take my advice; come down as soon as you can, and join me in studying, as I will do it.

Apprenticeship seems to be a cruel luxury; You have no idea how much pleasure we, with our mathematical turn of mind, will take in the profession, and it is one in which there will always be plenty of employment, and plenty of room for the action of whatever talent we possess above the common.

At the same time, we can give father the help about the old place which he so much needs, while preparing for the duties of our profession.

That help he tells me, he needs very greatly, and said he only refrained from calling you home till he could see if you would

be of benefit to Will in getting him settled; But that idea is gone now, as Will is now looking up a farm to buy in the eastern part of the state, and will not go to the Chippewa in any event.

He comes up from home last week and found me on the river near this town. I quit work for two days, and went with him to Winona, from whence he went out to the town of Fremont with Bill Hittier and is going to either buy a farm or rent one before he goes back to C.

So you see there is nothing to keep you longer up there, and I hope you will come down as soon as possible. If you do not have the means, write to father for them without delay. I would send with this, were I not short of the ready cash, and do not want to draw on my wages in advance.

My reason for abandoning the
Chippewa lay in the break up of
any matrimonial projects, for the
plans which would have been very
appropriate in the contingency of my
becoming a married man, are far
otherwise now that I am likely to
remain a spinster.

I have now chosen another course,
and I do not know but what it is
one promising as much happiness
as the one in which I fault so many
fairer. Either two months ago,
Probably all is for the best, though I
thought otherwise for a while.

Will brought the latest news from
home. Father out does very little,
Mother busy as usual, Sarah still
teaching, and still a source of trouble
to father, Dave going to school and
making but slow progress, Will says!

Many living at our place as usual. It can
get a hand in Minnesota, and things
generally about the same.

I would like if you would come down as
often as you can. If you should come
to Minn. you will hear from me at the same

Tronopcalidun Wic

Feb 10th 1844

My dear father, [James Chester]

Your two letters of the 2^d and 6th came down to me on Sunday evening from Minna.

Will found me on last Wednesday on the survey back of town, and I quit work for two days and went up with him to Minna, from whence he is now gone out to the interior to look up a farm. You will have heard from him before this.

I wrote to Alex on Sunday, telling him to come down as soon as he could, but I think likely you will need to send him some money for that purpose, as he left only some \$20 when we left, and has spent some of that before this. You will see me in C. about the 10th of March, if things

go as I calculate, but I will not stay long at home, for I have lost too much time already, and the coming summer will be a busy one with me, if I do all I intend to do.

I am very thankful to you for these two letters, and hope I will never be otherwise than thankful to hear from you, advising whether I may agree with you or not. In the present instance, I think you exaggerate the difficulties in my proposed future. You would have me accept contentedly a comparatively smooth life, when there is a better one, in consonance with all my tastes, desires and capabilities, indicated to me by my own instincts. You would deprive me of that ^{spirit of} self reliance and of ^{that} confidence in success which are the surest guarantees of that success ^{which} would trip up had your cautions,

and would endeavor, instead, to inspire me with a distrust of myself, my motives, and my powers. If I have an aspiration for something higher and better than a life of the merest doudging, it is not down by you to the action of a strong love of approbation, or "self flattery", or an excess of unregulated motive power.

I don't care how or by what a thing is suggested, provided that such proposed thing is good. He must judge the tree by its fruit. There we always to step and cavil at motives, there would be little attempted and little done in the world. I feel that I am right, and intend to put it through to fight it out on this line.

It is cowardice to refrain from attempting anything noble, merely because there may be difficulties

in the way. I expect to meet
difficulties, and to conquer them.

You speak of the
poor prospects of employment in
the profession I have chosen,

I can't see the point, when there
~~are so many Railroads to build~~
and so much land to survey
in the U. S. in the coming ten
years. There will always be done
enough for educated labor in this
country.

We will talk over
these things when I see you, but
my mind is made up as to the
course I will pursue; and I only
wish I had followed my bent
sooner.

My time is short for
writing purposes, and you must be
content with one sheet. My health
is splendid, and I weigh 160 pounds.

Give my love to Mother, and all the
family, I hope Dave is doing well
at school. For now is his chance.

Believe me, Your loving son.

Wm. D. Christie

Olyman March 1st 1866

My Dear Sandy

Wearied beyond
all measure to hear from
you, and in hope that your
mail runs now. I concluded
to send you another letter
Wishing to post you in our
press & literature.

William has bought a
farm of 100 Acres 80 of it in
Section 16 Town of Saratoga
5 mile South East of St Charles
20 of it in Section 36 in the
Town of St Charles. Costing
in all some \$800. per cent of it
to be paid within 20 years

He is to be here this week
to take Mary away to a place
where He and Her will get
225 \$ for 8 months work

on a farm within $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile
of his own place, they intend
leaving here on the 10th of
this month, Tom You know
is going to College at
Madison. I can say nothing
about his prospects. He
thinks it is the best thing
he can do, and of course
hopes to succeed in it.

And now for Yourself
and us at home. I trust
you are in health. Dase
is about all covered with
an eruption. Scabbed all
over with a scurfy looking
humour. He is not in ill
health. eats hearty and
does his Chores. I believe
if he had not Broke out
he would have been very
sick. His toes are of an
agreeable colour and do not

Heal easily. We trust it
will soon Work itself out.

Sarah You know teaches
school in Pat Mahoneys district
enjoys good health, only has
a bad Cold and has had it
for a good while. Mother as
usual, myself. the same
only failing less and less
able to do much on the Farm
and want like if you want
come home and really carry
on the place with Dase.

But I want not desire
you to do this unless you felt
like it. I appeal to your
judgement and good feeling.
Altho, I am really not able
and do think that for a year
or two you might be as well
with me yet as anywhere.
Besides in that time we could
get together what I want buy you
a farm, if that is your pleasure.

or start you in some other
way. at all event you should
come home. I will send money
to you after you have replied
to this letter, you let me know
where to send it, is there an
Express office in New Ulm?
or might I send a Draft on
the New Ulm Bank, or risk
it in a letter? Do not throw
away the things you have with
you but at least try and
carry them to William's place
you will easily find him
in School Section 16, Leratofu
pack all your truck in
Boxes and Rope them round
all this if you cannot dispose
of them to your advantage
Name the sum you wish
me to send. We have plenty
of clothes here for you to make
up of all kinds - Reply as soon
as possible. Yours J. Christie

Waterbury Mar 4th 1866

Dear Friend & Brother,

You are surprised at my Long Neglect of not Writing to you. Many things has occurred to me. - Since you seen or heard from me, to prevent the same.

However I will now tell you. What I should have done some time ago. - on my arrival in N. York I then found that Tommy's Bagage & Mine had been Mistake. I came home, with the assurance of it being forwarded to me, & waiting for over 3 weeks without any account of my things. I set out for N. York, & found on applying at the office that my Bagage was in Hartford. I went to Hartford & had to pay

all the Expence Charges, &
had the Mortification of Seeing
My Box Broke the End in & a good
Number of My tools Missing
When I Got Ready to work
My old Pop had Engaged a
Man. So I was out of work to
Newyears When I Saw a adver-
tisement in the Papers, for
Shoemakers in Winsted, I went
there & got Worked Shod & Packed
& Was Doing Well But the Expence
of Board, & Travell. Was Rather
high a figure, So on the 28th of
Jan I had a Letter from my
old Pop stating if I would
come & work for him he would
give me constant work as his
Boot man. he had three Wives
Like to goe to his home. So I
came Back & made a Bargain
with the Pop. Mr. Freeman,
for one year at Six Hundred Dollars

I am now in a good job &
hope to do better than I have
although my Indisett. Put
me Back Considerable & Im-
posed Left. But with Good ^{Health}
Felicity & Gods Blessing I will
overcome it in good time.

"Tommy has not worked
any since he came home &
I wish I had Left him in the
West. Work is hard to be got
& Plenty of Sellers. I hope the
Denians will soon goe & in place
& leave Room for honest folks
I will send you a Paper now &
then when there is anything
Extra. about them in it.

My Wives Boys. Is all working in
Colts. with himself. That all
will tell My Son I will
write him shortly Eliza & Me,
are in our usual health, hoping
these will find you in the

- I am, I rejoice Mr. In Sending
to you, Percy & Sarah Jane, our
Best Wishes also Remember us
to Tom, Willy, Sandy & David,
& all Enquiring friends

I remain your Affectionate
Friend & Brother

Robert H. Reid,

Write Soon

Lowell Wisconsin

March 11th 66.

Dear Cousin. [Sarah Christie]

I received your letter last night and was glad to hear from you. I got Uncle Ives the \$10.00 ten dollar which you sent. We are all well except Aunt Matilda and she is almost well she had her dress on yesterday for the first time since she has been sick. She has had the typhoid fever. The Doctor says that she has not had it as hard as they had it around here last spring. Edna has been here ever since Aunt has been sick. I don't know what we would have done without her. Edna is going across the river this afternoon so it can't write a very long letter this time. The Darn went out a week ago yesterday &

Took the greater part of the bridge
with it. The water is so low that
they can go through with wagons.
They have got a foot bridge so that
any one can cross. I had a letter from
Willie about two weeks ago and have
answered it and I wrote to Mary
but have had no answer.
Has Sandy got home yet or is he
not coming home. Is your school
out yet. You said that our folks
were living with the Ramsays I don't
like that much. hope they will
move as soon as possible.
I am glad to hear that they are
going to have a new house for
I did not like the idea of their
living in that old thing that
they moved from Chymani it
was so inconvenient for Mother.
I did not care for the seat if it
my Dear Mother was only comfortable

you will excuse this poor writing
for I am in a hurry I have got
to take care of Everett this afternoon
I have got to keep him as still as
possible for Aunt Matilda has got
a headache. Sarah if you will answer
this I will write you a better
letter next time. You see I obeyed
you and sent out a letter by
the next mail. if you cant read
this send it back and I will
have it printed will you please
excuse this ^{poor} letter and believe
me your loving Cousin
Josie

P.S. come up and stay a
week or two with us after
Aunt get well and oblige
your Coz Jessie [Dinner]

(Song)

Frederick March 12th

1862

(Wrap the flag around our boys)

(1st) Oh! wrap the flag around our boys
To die more far more sweet;
With freedom's starry emblem boys,
To be my winding sheet;
For life I live to see it wave,
And follow where it led,
But now my eyes grow dim,
My hands have clasped its last bright fold,
(Chorus) ^{For} Wrap the flag around our boys,
To die more far more sweet;
With freedom's starry emblem boys,
To be my winding sheet;

(2nd) Oh! I had thought to greet you boys
On many a well won field,
When to our starry banner boys
The traitors for should yield,
But now alas I am denied
My dearest earthly prayer,

Great father and great mother for
But I will not be there.

(Chorus) Yet wrap the flag in

(3d) Although my body molder here,
My spirit will be free,
And every coward's knee here
Will still be true to me,
There in the thick and bloody fight,
I will sit your valor flag,
For I'll be there still during night,
Above the stars and flag.

(Chorus) Still wrap the flag in

(1st Song) ("The Love Story Song")

(1st Verse) Oh the love story song you give to me here,
When pale is the beautiful night,
When the sweet laughing moon I see here,
"Shine forth" through the pale silver light.

(Repeat) When we meet through the low woods rough here,
As I gaze in some bright rising star,
When the world is in sleep and a dream here,
Oh wake while I touch my guitar.

Oh the red song more you give to me here,
For song is the student's love,
When the stars cease their gentle light here,
Will I wait for a welcome from thee,
(Repeat) And oh if that pleasure be thine here,
It is to gather with wonder afar,
And this heart shall be true to thee here,
Oh wake while I touch my guitar.

(3d) One hat shall glide over the waves here
To its home on the foam-crested deep,
O'er the blue sea but its white foam shall be
Near the coast where the currents sleep,
(Repeat) 'Tis there when oblivion and quiet here,
We will banish forever afar,
I would live in the light of thy smile here,
And be long on my light-tinted guitar.

Written for Song Sarah Christie,
by Lucie Murphy, (to Sarah.)

When this you remember here,
And pass it to your heart,
Remember I still think of thee.

Oh though many years pass here,

For more of death I felt little by
the way of my former notes in England
and I shall now of my wife.

Clyman Wis.

March 20th /66.

My Dear Sandy,

We are in daily expectation of either seeing you in propria persona; or by letter, and are in considerable anxiety on your account in consequence of your long silence, though we all know it is enforced by the dispensar.

When the Spring opens you will get a large pile of letters written by us during the winter, and I hope you will soon be able to do what we all so much wish, and father most of all, - come home;

The State gun is thus at present, -

William & Mary are settled down to work the coming Summer for a man named Towers, east of Saratoga, (which is their P.O.) near where Mills

land is situated. When you come down to see and stop to see them,

Now we are all much the same as usual, and all in good health, with the exception of Dave, who is still troubled with the prairie itch, for which he is following treatment prescribed by Dr. Cody. Father is afraid you have got it, as Dave caught it from William.

Narah's school will be out in two weeks. I carry her up and down with the team.

I set out for Madison and the University in four days, and will be there three months.

Have got \$125 from father for the purpose. Have been selling wheat at from 1.16 to 1.27 in town.

You can have no idea how anxious father is on your acct. and indeed, all of us, Uncle William's folks included, and we seek the

Mail regularly every day for a letter.

Of course you will write at the earliest chance, and start for home next. If you have not the means, write, and they will be sent to where you may wish, but to save time try and raise money by selling any thing you can, only we would like you to bring the tools home if it could be done without too much sacrifice. Father would like them, but if H. wants them leave them with him. Sell them, though, if necessary. Fifteen dollars (\$15.00) will take you from N.H. to where H. is, and there you will get money to come home.

Save no time in making a start, for you have no idea how father feels on the subject. You will know how to get away from your neighbors without trouble. I appreciate fully your position, and

know every difficulty you will meet
but think I know also that you are
equal to almost anything.

We will have a talk when I see
you, and you will cease to blame
me if you ever did, when you
know all the circumstances.

I think you will be willing enough
to leave the frontier, after so long an
experience of it, and make no doubt
you will do so without much regret.

There are better things in store for
you than a life spent amid such
associations!

James Smith had
come around again, having been digging
coal in Iowa all Winter, and talks
of going again to California.

John Sutton's wife has a son, and
I think that is all the news.

We all dream of you often, and
still no letter. Soatify all of dear
Christie by showing yourself among
them as soon as possible.

Yours affectionately

Thos. D. Christie

Chicago March 21st 1866.

James Christie Esq.

Dear Sir

We received on the 17th inst \$4.80
for two books. Sent same day to your
address "History of the Supernatural"
Did not have the "View at the Hermitage"
and could not find it in the City.

Expect soon to send for ^{books} to Boston and
if you wish to wait will order that
work; if not will send you any thing
we have for the price \$1.50. or if you prefer
will return the money. If we do not hear
from you, will conclude that you want us
to send for the book.

Respectfully Yours,
T. L. Wadsworth & Co.,

Box 2222

for M. C. L.

no job any more and is as Ho

State University,

Marion, Mo 3/16

My dear Sister: [Sarah Christie]

Yours of the 29th

Wek. came up from the P.O. an hour ago, and as you wish, I answer immediately. You ought to know the reason that I did not come up for you on Saturday, without blaming me for it, and as to Sunday, I expected to see you down, not knowing of your sickness. Your charge of want of regard on my part I will pass over, as I hope you did not mean all you said when you accused me of it;

I would like first rate to see you up here for a day or two before your school opens again, and if you will write beforehand I will meet you at the Depot,

and will secure a room for you while you stay, in the Institution. There are lots of pretty girls with whom I am just getting acquainted, and you would soon feel at home with them. The fare from Clyman is \$2.90.

Do not come for a week or so yet, as then the weather will be better, and I will have more feminines to introduce you to. My two Chums and I have got our rooms fixed up in good shape, and get along well.

Of course, I have no trouble in my studies. We three, and two other girls board with Prof. Richard where there are over 30 girls at the table, so you may suppose we have a lively time at meals.

Richard is the "funny fellow" you refer to, and his character is in accordance with his appearance. Prof. Allen I have

not seen, though I believe he is in town. I have no time to spare to tramp around, and have not seen Smith since I left him in the cars. Will go down the first chance and have a talk with him.

As it is, I have to crowd things to find time for necessary services, as I have four studies, and their recitations alone take up four hrs.

I came here on business, and every thing must be made subordinate to my object.

Tell Father I have decided to go through with a regular Scientific Course, which will take me two years to graduate in. There are young chaps here who are 6 years older than I, who are not half through with their course, having commenced it some of them, after they were 26. So I am early enough.

If you come to see me please
fetch along my razor which
I forgot. Don't bring anything
more than a carpet sack, of
course.

Tell Father I am
happy as a cricket, only anxious
on Sandy's acct. I have
joined a Bible class in town
and heard two excellent ser-
mons yesterday.

Yours is the first letter I
have got since coming.

It is past ten and
I must crawl into the
Blankets.

Yours.

Thos. D. Christie

Excuse haste, you know how we
are every minute we can for
study, rather than be behind
the class tomorrow.

- Tom -

City of the Seven Hills Mass?

Chippewa Crossing, ~~Mass~~

April 6th 1866

My Dear Father,

After over three months
of weary waiting the mail arrives,
and the lion's share falls to me - 8 letters
and 10 tribunes. The news from home
is what engrosses my attention the most,
though the Political Arena is well worth
the watching, and was seldom if ever
more exciting? But I am on the
Chippewa, - not in Congress, - therefore
I will speak of what ~~was~~ just now
more immediately concerns "the" and
"me". In the first place, I am
surprised - I cannot say greatly,
since I feel I was giving up the un-
dertaking and all my well-digested
plans for the future. In the words
of R. W. White "I'm pleased, and
yet I'm sad". More "pleased" than

"Sorry" you will say. ~~But~~ ~~for~~

But that is not the case - if you want to hurt my feelings there is nothing ^{will} do so as effectually as to snatch me give up and undertasting once I am into it in earnest.

But I shall "Retreat in Good Order" in "obedience to orders," and if I do not do it well, there is no use of anybody else trying. - I made the trip to the "Hort's" with Taylor - most desperate undertasting of my life - out some days in dreadful ^{weather} - will give details when I see you.

- We could have done finely here but I don't know ^{but} that H. & T. have both done the best thing in the long run. This is not the grand old frontier of Boone and Kenton's time.

Now the situation of myself is this - I have just \$200 in currency and two in specie, but by selling off the most appropriate articles I will raise sufficient to do me up I propose to come as far as Winona in a canoe, camping out all the way - then go up to Willis where I will get shoring to fetch me home.

Wisc. University

Madison

Saturday April 7th 1866

My dear father; [James Christie]

I have been expecting a letter from you in answer to my first and second, but have seen nothing of it yet, and will, I suppose, have to doubt the dose, in consequence.

I have to report great progress in my studies the present week, in all of them I am A 1, as I expected to be, but not of course, without steady and severe application to my books. My mind is in far better train now for study than when I came, it is subject to the control of Discipline, and receives ^{ideas} with far greater facility. But the more I advance the more I see before me to learn, and I have made

up my mind to apply myself to
the task of educating myself in
a regular manner. That is,
I am going to go through with a
regular Scientific Course here,
which will take me about two
years at the rate I now progress.

In order to do this I must, of
course, teach school or survey
a few months every year ~~in~~
order to raise the means.

I am going through with
it though, if I should leave
College at graduation as poor
as Lazarus. At the close of this
Term I will help you off with the
Hornet if you wish, during the
Vacation, and then I must ~~go~~ come
here again for the next term,
unless something very advantageous
offers in the shape of Winter em-
ployment.

I am surprised at

getting no news of Sandy, though
if the Spring has been as late as
there as here, in proportion
there need be no wonder at his
reluctance. I want you to lose
no time in forwarding any letter
that comes from him.

Was not this been a queer
kind of a Spring, a perfect
anomaly. I think today is
the beginning of a new order of
things in the weather though
and I suppose the farmers will
not be sorry. This time last year
we were sowing, and that you
may not do for perhaps ten days
even if the Spring breaks in
earnest. What news from
Wm. I write him today.

Have bought ten Draughting
Scales, \$4.00, Text Books on Conic Section,
Geometry, Trigonometry,
Mechanics, and Geography (65c)

part second hand, and very cheap,
Good sound leather trunk,
warranted to stand the knocks of
two thousand miles or more of
RR travelling for (3.45) this
from one of my shams,

Have not been to see Smith yet
we have too much to do to spare
time for visiting. I count every
minute, and am regular in
study and in bodily exercise.

Keep an excellent appetite and
have lots of fun in the proper
time for it. Have joined the
Hesperians, a literary society
here and am on for Debate next
Friday evening on the negative of
the question Res. that Capital Pun-
ishment should be restored in
this State. Our side is the best,
I think and there will be a lively
debate. Let Sarah come up and
see me before her school opens.

She must notify me when to ex-
pect her.

Yours loving son

Thos. L. Christie

[Ded 121866]

The town Supervisors at their meeting
April 12 1866 Voted to assign all of the State
Road in the town North of the quarter post-
between Sections 9 and 10 to district No 4.

They also voted to assign G. Schwan C. Misch
L. Dorman and Wm Just to district No 4.

R. H. Paine
Town Clerk

Chapter 14 Laws of Minn. Article 2 Sec. 17.

"Every overseer of highways shall deliver to the
Supervisors of his town, on or before the first-
day of September of each year, the list furnished
by the Supervisors containing the land ~~road~~ Tax
with his certificate thereon, that on all tracts
of land in said list- opposite which the word
"paid" is not written, such Tax is due and
remains unpaid, according to the best of his
knowledge and belief"

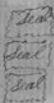
Sec. 20. — "It shall be the duty of every overseer
of highways to have at least three-fourths
of the road labor assessed in his district
worked out or actually expended ^{on} highways
previous to the first-day of August in each
year"

Know all men by these presents that
I William L. Stevens of the County of Blue Earth
and State of Minnesota as principal and we
Martin Stratton and Albert C. Stratton of
the County and State aforesaid said as
Sureties are held and firmly bound unto
the Chairman of the board of Supervisors of the
Town of Rapidan County and State aforesaid
in the penal sum of Five hundred Dollars
lawful money of the United States for the
payment of which well and truly to be made
to the said Chairman we jointly and
severally bind our selves our heirs executors
and administrators firmly by these presents
Signed with our hands and sealed with our
seals this 12th day of April A.D. 1866.
The condition of the above obligation is such
Whereas the above bondman William L. Stevens
has been elected to the office of Justice of
the Peace for the Town of Rapidan for
the term of two years from the third
day of April A.D. 1866, now if the said
William L. Stevens shall faithfully discharge
all the official duties as Justice of the
Peace during the term which he shall hold
said office then this obligation to be void
otherwise in full force and virtue

Signed in presence of

James Stratton

William L. Stevens
Martin Stratton
Albert C. Stratton



Clapton April 6 1866

Notice

It is hereby given to all the
legal voters in School District No
Seventy nine in the County of Blue Earth
to meet at the House of W. L. Stevens
on the 28th day of April A.D. 1866
at 3 O'clock P.M. to transact the
following business to wit
1st to Choose a Moderator
2^d to Choose a Clerk Pro Tem
3^d to Elect one Director one Clerk and
one treasurer for the ensuing year
4th to see if the District will purchase
or lease a piece of land to build a
School House on
5th to see if the District will build
a School House
6th to see if the District will have
a School the Ensuing Summer
7th to see if the District will raise money
to defray the Expence of said School
8th to transact any other Business
Wm. L. Stevens L. Dyer Martin Stratton

$$\begin{array}{r}
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 180 \\
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 \end{array}$$

$$750$$

$$450$$

$$525$$

$$1225$$

$$300$$

$$150$$

$$4445$$

$$100$$

$$4545$$

$$1200$$

$$5745$$

[April 16, 1866]

Notice

Is hereby given to all the legal voters in School District No. Twenty nine in the County of Blue Earth to meet at the House of W. L. Stevens on the 28th day of April A.D. 1866 at 3 O'clock P.M. to transact the following business to wit.

- 1st To choose a Moderator.
- 2nd To choose a Clerk pro tem.
- 3rd To elect one Director, one Clerk, and one Treasurer, for the ensuing year.
- 4th To see if the District will purchase, or lease, a piece of land to build a School House on.
- 5th To see if the District will have a school the ensuing summer.
- 6th To see if the District will raise money to purchase, lease, or build a School House.
- 7th To see if the District will raise money to defray the expenses of said School.
- 8th To transact any other necessary business.

Dated April 16th 1866.

Wm L Stevens
Lucius Gers
Martin Stratton

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W.L.C. put me up
for that - this is out for the benefit of
all the neglected
My love to all the family, and even
more

Madison Monday

April 16th 1866.

My dear Father, [James Christie]

I recd. your letter a week
ago, when I posted my last to you, and
have been so busy as not to have had time
to answer. With four severe studied books
writing school three times a week, I am
left pretty well down to the work.

I rise at 5 steady, take a Bath, exercise
till I am tired with the Dumb Bells, then
walk two miles, and come back to my room
about the time of the 6 o'clock Bell, which
sends the most of the fellows out of their
beds, Then study an hour till Breakfast
at 7, which takes 20 minutes, After this
till 8 I look over my Geometry, which
I recite in class at 8. The Bell for
prayer at 8.45 closes the Geometry rec-
itation, and all the students assemble
in the chapel, the Bell ringing ^{three} from

minutes, at the close of which every one is supposed to be in his seat, in the chapel. The Roll is then called, after which a chapter is read by one of the Professors, and a prayer is offered, also by one of the Professors. Then this class, one of the students, whose turn it is, takes the stand, and either declaims a piece learned by heart, or reads an Essay of his own on some subject.

These exercises are usually very excellent, as the one who is to write or declaim has notice two weeks before his turn comes, in which to prepare.

In the Essays perfect freedom of thought is allowed, and we had one, our infidelity a few days ago, in which it was championed very ably by one of the Seniors, who graduates at the close of the term. One of the Freshmen came out with an Essay in reply to this, within two days, and knocked to pieces all of the Seniors

ingenious arguments. After the services in the chapel are over, by which time it is a little past noon, we who have no recitations at that hour go to our rooms. I look over my Algebra and Trigonometry, become learned the evening previous, and when the ten O'clock bell rings, one of the Algebra recite to Miss Merrill, an excellent teacher. There is no study I am in, in which I have improved so much as in this. I thought I was a pretty good Algebraist, and so I was, perhaps, when dealing with the great principles of the Science, on which all the operations are founded, but there were many outlying collateral ideas, flanking skirmishes, that I had never had to deal with. We have a very smart class, and do our best to drive each other to the wall, so that there is more learned in an hour in class than there would be in two days of solitary study.

I notice, though, that when there is an uncommonly difficult proof to work, Miss Merrill usually gets me up at the Blackboard. I had one today that covered nearly a half acre of plane surface, in its Demonstration. The usual time occupied by a recitation is an hour, but we generally, in the Algebra Class, are caught right in the middle of some interesting demonstration, by the 11 O'Clock bell, when of course we have to make way for some other class in the room, and go to attend other recitations of our own. My Trigonometry comes at 11, and both that and the Geometry are recited to Prof Stirling, an excellent Mathematician.

I find the first named, in particular a most interesting study, as it is not so abstract as either Geometry or Algebra, though based on both those sciences.

At 12 my Trigonometry is all done, and I have from that time till 1 for fun and exercise, which are found in a regular game of Cricket, just as we played it in the Army, or in Base Ball. I am always in for either of them, and play with a will.

At One the bell sounds for dinner, and those of us who board at Prof Richards' table go over to the South Building to dine with the young ladies.

We have lots of fun at the table when Prof's attention is drawn off from our locality, and as he presides over only one of the tables, and our crowd is at the other, we have plenty of opportunity. I will board myself after this term, though, as it can be done much more cheaply than by this plan, nearly all the Students do so.

After dinner I review my lesson in Physical Geography, which I recite at two. This is a very interesting study, and serves as a recreation from my mathematics.

We draw outline maps on the Blackboard, and fill in the mountains and Rivers, from Charts which we copy. When we copy one day, we have to draw the same from memory the next day. Today we had a written Review of part of what we have been over, in which every one wrote down answers to the questions written on the Blackboard, and every one, when they were finished, folded up their paper and wrote it with their name, and handed the document to the teacher.

Her Criticisms on them will be given to the class tomorrow. The method of teaching here is, I think the best that could be devised. It is thorough, and no one can get along by shirking, or by a superficial mode of thought. Everything goes by a high standard, and if you do not come up to it, nobody will wait for you. I am glad to say

that I am pretty near the front rank. After the biography recitations, which last till three, I take another turn at H. Chat or Ball, or the trapezium for an hour, and then, perhaps go to the Capitol for a walk, look in on the Senate and Assembly (they are adjourned now), look through the Curiosity in the rooms of the Historical Society, or read a while in the State Library. I do not read much now though, besides my studies, for they give me mental exercise enough.

When I come up from town I go at my studies for tomorrow, and with the exception of 30 minutes for supper, all the time between five and 9, 30 is devoted to my books. I always go to bed before ten. This is my usual routine. On Saturdays we have no recitations.

and in the evening I attend prayer
meeting in town. Also a prayer
meeting in Prof. Stirling's room
in the college, and on Sunday I
go to church twice and attend
Bible class. I attend the Congre-
gational church, and like the
style of preaching very much.

I hope you have heard
from Alex. before this. I have
not written to him for the reason
that after you told me of sending
him money I thought there
would be no use in it, as when
I hear of his arrival I will
post down to Chymaw on some
Friday and stay over Sunday.

I suppose you and Dave
are very busy now in getting
in the crops. The farmers in
this vicinity have been plowing
for a week. It has been a very
late Spring.

I had thought to see Sabah up here, by what she wrote me, and would like to see her very much. She could stay in the Ladies Department for a day or two, witness the recitations (and see the curiosities) about Madison. It would be a pleasant recreation for her before beginning her Summer school.

When you write, tell me how ^{Mr} H is getting along. I have not written to him for lack of time, but will as soon as I can spare it. I hate to cut short my modicum of physical exercise, as I am doing now, and I will not neglect my studies for anything. The most of the young men here are those who, like myself, are going to push through college by teaching school, working in harvest, and running a transit when necessary. There are many soldiers among them, and many a smart

good fellow, of a class you see
nothing of in Chymman, I think
if you could see this College once
with its charge of one hundred and
twenty bright, enterprising, solid
young Anglo Saxons, you would
have more faith in the ability of
Young America to keep intact
the Institutions of Liberty left by
the Fathers! I need not tell you
that there is scarcely such a
being among us as a so-called
Democrat. All radical to a
man nearly. By the way I had
the honor of casting my first vote
on Election Day, a weeks residence
entitling me to it, I was the
day go in Chymman. I hope
you will spare time to come up
and see me here yourself before
the term is out. It will do you
good, to see the lakes and the
scenery here if nothing more,

You must come in May after
the hurry of Spring work is over,
and you will never regret
it. You could drive Mether
out to Sun Prairie, stay there
over night, and drive in on
the next day, No expense at all,
you see, and lots of interesting
things to look at. The trip will
do you good, and open your
eyes to what is going on outside
of Chymman. You would think a
great deal more of your country
if you did not shut yourself up
like a hermit in that good-
for-nothing-but-to-drink-whiskey
place. I almost forgot to tell
you of our Debate last Friday
night in the Hesperian Society.
Had a lot of the ladies in as
visitors, and the speaking was so
poor at the first, that I got dis-
gusted with the whole thing for a
while, so when I came on to

the Rostrum, about half way through
the debate, and made my maiden
speech; I went in to win, for the
sake of the good name of the
Society. The presence of the ladies,
and the desire to do something worthy
of the expectations which I knew my
classmates entertained in my case,
and, of course, that big bump of
Approbativeness in my head, as well
as the consciousness I had of speaking
in a noble cause; all these lifted
me, as it were, above my ordinary
self; and the Boys told me - well no
matter what they told one afternoon,
nor what the girls said; only I may
tell you in confidence that there
was just a little mite of churing
when I sat down; It may have
been in gratitude to me for sitting
down, ^{to be sure} but that is all a matter
of opinion, - Now that I have
written all this I don't know
whether to send it or not but it
may give you some pleasure,
and so here goes Thos. D. Christy

Sparta Wisconsin
Apr. 22nd 1866

Dear Tom

Your late but

Welcome letter come to hand all
right and glad I was to hear
that you was well and glad to
hear that you attended prayer
meetings Oh Tom how I do hope
that you will give your heart
to Christ lean upon him for
he will comfort you my daily
prayer is that you will give
your self wholly to him who
died for us I have just got home
from the Church where we had a
good sermon Preached next
Sabbath I am to be taken in
as a member of the Church
I wish you was here to join with

me in the good work we have
before us well Dan & Ann enjoying
myself pretty well at present
I am sending my stud horses
here I intend to make about
\$500 dollars this season out of
my horses & charge 8. dollars
a piece get lots of mares
and when the mare season is
over I will sell my horse
and go in to other business
if I get time I will get out
your cards this week we are
having fine weather to day but
the past 2 weeks has been rain-
ing all the time, my foot is
a little worse now on account
of my Exaggerating it to much
I am very much oblige to you
for seeing B. Hutchinsonson
the pension agent well I had
by have time to write the
Sunday school bell is ringing

our folks are all well here
I suppose you have heard of the
death of Fred Burnes in Lyman
he died about 2 weeks ago
his Father's husband I mean
well Dan Bears Excuse my
short letter this time I will
do better next time Please
write as soon as convenient
and oblige yours

Praying Friend
John Schaller

My love to you
and all of your
folks

I must quit and
go to S. School
so good bye
till next time

Lowell Sunday morning

April 22nd 1866

Dear Sarah [Christie]

I received your letter

last Thursday night and was glad to hear from you. Aunt is well again but is not strong enough to do much of any thing yet. So I have it all to do. Ella went home last Tuesday she is going to teach the small school here this summer and board at our house. Maria is going to teach the school on the Prairie where she taught last winter & Ella Hatch is going to teach in the district south of Maria. That is if she gets a certificate which I presume she will at least I hope so for she is very anxious to teach. Our school begins one week from tomorrow Maggie Rowe is going to teach this summer and I don't like it much but then there is some

Talk of having a select school if they
can get a suitable room & if we have
one I wont go to Maggie Lane, I wish we
could have one then I would learn a
great deal this summer the lady that
is trying to get up the select school
lives below the station her name is
Mrs Bond. She is reported to be an excel-
lent teacher nothing more to say about
schools this time - I had almost forgot
to ask you if Cousin Willis got a certificate
but of course he did, I should have been
glad if I could have went to the
examination this spring but as Aunt
was sick neither Elta nor I, could
go Providence permitting I will attend
the examination in the fall and if
I can attend school pretty regularly
this summer I will learn all I can
I will study hard and do the best
that I can if the term commences
as early as one week from tomorrow

I cant go for Aunt wont be able to do
the work as soon as that besides we
have not done our house cleaning yet
but then we will hire some one to
do it. I am glad that Brother is so near
you for we will have such a nice time
when I come down I dont know when
that will be for I wont have any
time unless I come down some Satur-
day and stay till Monday I can go
round on the train or perhaps I
could have someone take me down
in a buggy which would suit me much
better. I have not seen Doctor Miller
yet but will go over the river this afternoon
and ascertain the amount of your bill
if he is at home if he is not I will let
you know next time if that will do
I cant write as long a letter as I would
like to for I must write to Mary & also
to Maggie & I ought to write to Alice Allen
if I have time love to all and a good
share for yourself write immediately
from please

P.S. you told me to give Uncle B the enclosed
30cts. I guess you forgot to put it in the
letter did you not but I guess thirty
cents wont make him dont you
think so now I must write to Mother
& then if we dont have any company
by the time I have finished my
letter to her I will write one to
Maggie I will write one to her
today anyhow company or no
company well it must
stop

Jessie

your De. bill is 2.85.

extra high opinion of you, and
by the way he talked would like
you to join the standard of
the "Sovereign" Company - I told him
you had had enough of soldiering.
Thursday, 26th

I must try and finish this
morning. I am so glad to hear you
are getting on so well with your
studies. I know you will be be-
yond the most of them in ability.
I cannot get further to believe, or
over, at least, that two of his sons
anyway are above the common
run in the way of intellectual
ability. The will see it some day
though if Sandy and you live.
So you are going through with
the full course "None poorer to
age's" as "Winnie" says - I knew
well enough when you went that
you would be satisfied with one
term at it. Now you must excuse this
time to do so - Not a word from Sandy yet,
seems to me it is time something more done.
I will let you know immediately when we do

I know that where you are, and in the society with which you mingle. Given to refined, and intellectual pursuits, you will wonder at one for having anything in common with such people - but if you had felt as I did when I went among them, and had been received as I was by them, perhaps you would have felt towards them somewhat as I do. I esteem and admire, but give to one, kindly, loving hearts. There was a dance at Fort Whiting on the Saturday evening after my school closed, and as I promised to all the folks I would go so as to see them all together again. I went and had a good time. Now you needn't turn up your nose at it - the Dampier were there. Next was at home too

and went - he is a very fine young fellow, he acts very like Jim was to; but of course he is not near as good looking - he left home to look for work shortly after, and is now in Marion at work - I saw him on Sunday. She is going into Watertown to attend school this summer and if she does well, her father says he will send her to the College next winter. I am very glad of it; just what I have long been coveting for Ann. Ann has commenced her school over there on Monday. "Wiles" is a Lieutenant of the "fencing" and is raising his arm. He told me on Saturday that they just met 10 more men and then they are going to Canada he says. I had a long talk with him, he seems to have con-

Redwood. Minn. April 27 766

My Dear Father: [James Christie]

I am coming
home as fast as I can get, and
will be with you in a week.

Until then have patience.

Yours Affectionately

A. S. Christie

Madison Wis.
{ Saturday, Apr. 28th 1866.

My dear Sister; [Miss Sarah G. Christie]
Yours of the last date came along yesterday afternoon, and as this is students-Holiday very opportunely, I will devote an hour to answering, though the lively game of Cricket playing below my window is an ever present temptation to the throwing down of the pen and the exchange of mental for physical pleasure. Give me credit, if between the interest I feel in a well contested game, in which my side of the Club seems to be getting a little the worse of it, by the way, and the attempt to concentrate my thoughts on the production of a letter, give me credit if you don't find in

the midst of some of my sentimental
such, interesting aspirations as
these - "Make two runs on that Dixie."
- "Put him out, put him out," - "Tally
three for our side, De Forest," - "Foul,
foul," - "no Bowl," - "Down with that
Hickit," - "Send her up," - or some
other equally classical exclamation,
which come into me in ringing
shouts through the open window.

After this apologetic
preamble "the Homer will come to
Order," (Last night was our 28th session
meeting, which will act for any
parliamentary phrase that may
creep into my otherwise sensible
remarks). And first, as to your
letter, the most important part of
which was that relating to Sandy.
I am sorry father had not yet heard
from him, but will never think
that anything serious has befallen
him until we get notice to that

effect, and I think both you and
father are doing very wrong in
indulging in such gloomy fore-
bodings as your letter indicates.

Have you not had experience
enough in that way to learn you
that these morbid imaginations are
not justifiable ever by subsequent
events, that, no matter where we may
be, or surrounded by no matter
how adverse circumstances, there is
always a something that shoals
our efforts to the level of the require-
ments of the case and brings us
through triumphantly every time.

In view of my experience in this
regard, I am perfectly confident
as to Sandy's return, and have
as much faith, not only in seeing
him soon at home, but also in
seeing him here, before many
months have passed, as I have in
the rising of the Sun tomorrow.

I wish we could sometimes see the end in such things; it would increase our faith that all is for the best, but since we may not do this, we should have the same reason by experience, and always look on the bright side till compelled to do otherwise by events. I hope you will do as you promise in regard to sending me the first information you get as to Sandy, and if he should drop in on you some day soon, I will take a run down and spend, ^a Sunday at home.

You do not mention the Lorraines William and Mary in your letter, and so I suppose they are still reigning in peace, comfort and Domestic bliss in their Royal Dominions. I ought to be bastinadoed for not having written to them since coming here, I know, and yet I have not either time nor much inclination - if the truth be told, - to do so.

I hope you will take as much pleasure in your present school

as in your last one, though I suppose you will always look back with the most interest to your sojourn in that log school house, no matter how you may be placed hereafter. There is one good quality no one can deny to the Irish, - capacity for affection, - for their friends, and of course it is pleasant, where it may be done without sacrifice of principle, to be on the right side of people. This may be done, without that sacrifice in most cases, but where the two conflict, our love of the good opinion of those around us should always yield to the requirements of Right. So Miles is in the ranks of the Fenians, too - I think the whole movement is a miserable humbug, as every movement must be which is headed by ^{and} blinding incapacity - as controls this,

The Fenians do not fight in the cause of universal liberty, they would be just as ready to-day to take up arms in

^{There seems to me no doubt any one who reads this}
a crusade for the Pope, or for the
extermination of the Negro as they
do in the Canon they are engaged
in, and therefore, they do not deserve
either support or sympathy from
true Philanthropists.

And now a word as to myself, —
I have still to report excellent and most
gratifying progress in all my duties,
good health, and agreeable relations
with all surrounding circumstances, in
general. In regard to my studies,
I have increased them lately by en-
tering a class just formed by Prof.
Pickard of the Normal Dept. in
the "Theory and Practice of Teaching."

I believe I will teach some good
school next Winter, and this is the
place to learn here. Our recitations
are three times a week, and what we
have had are most interesting.
Our Trigonometry Class is through
with that Science, and we are now

^{beginning to read a very many}
in Solid Geometry. We finish
both Plane and Solid Geo. this
term, which allows me to enter as
Sophomores the Fall term.

I find my Physical Geo-
graphy in the Normal Dept. a very
interesting study, and the hour to which
the recitation is limited is scarcely
sufficient for the lengthy discussions
our lessons give rise to. In the
two "Written Reviews" on this subject
to which we have been subjected, by
having us all answer six or eight
questions in writing, in the Classroom,
I have been marked "10" on every
question, which gives "100" on the
whole Review, the highest standard,
and to which only one other in our
class of 35 attained; and she is
one of the most thorough girls I
ever saw, both in the Mathematics
and in the Natural Sciences.
Perhaps you will think that this

^{My friends are very anxious to hear of my success}
speaking of my triumphs is not in
very good taste, but I tell you
of them for the sole reason that I
think they will give you pleasure,
and if I did not think so I would
never speak of them.

My partners, - Smith, and myself, are
now boarding ourselves, and find it
both much cheaper, and much better in
many respects - the only thing we
miss is the pleasant company of the
young ladies at the table, but this we
can get along without. We do our own
cooking, and have our regular Breakfast, potatoes,
rice, Indian meal, fish, &c in different
modes, with all the accessories, and
especially milk - of which we use
a quart apiece per day. All this
we can have on two Dollars per week.
This term is going to cost full twice as
much as any of the subsequent ones
will, on account of buying furniture,
Books, cooking utensils &c, which will
not have to be bought again. I want
Father to send me twenty Dollars by P.M.
Order from Watertown, as soon as pos-
sible. He had a long letter from H. two
weeks ago, and answered. His wife came
west with him the winter, and he has bought a house
in W. Please write once in a while, and write

Madison Wis. May 10th ⁴⁶

My dear father, [Young Christian]
Yours of the last date with Sandy's enclosed I rec'd last night, and am glad to see that S is on the road. I have good news for you in this, - I have reason to believe that I am at length a Christian. I have made a profession of my faith in Christ, and with God's help will hereafter live a different life.

For the past two weeks I have been in a very chaotic state of mind, knowing my duty and my true interests, but prevented by a stubborn will from submitting. On Sunday evening I made up my mind, and since then have been on the upward path, striving through prayer, and by all the proper means, to make my foothold more secure. Since that time I have

enjoyed peace, and great joy in feeling that I am doing my duty, and that there is a Power assisting and cheering me in this,

This expansion of my Spirituality being under the influence of Religion is the greatest source of happiness in the world, - there is no experience to be compared to it in the whole of life. I know I speak to one who appreciates and acknowledges this when I say so to you, dear father.

Life now has new and nobler objects for me, and more importance, as I realize that every action here has a direct bearing on my condition in Eternity, the importance of which, when compared with the flitting present, is immeasurably superior.

I acknowledge Christ as my Redeemer from the just penalty of my sins, and that all I can do will bring me no merit except through the mercy and loving kindness of God

God helping me, as I know he will, I am determined to go on in the way I have begun, nursing and tending the spark that is in me till it spreads into a blaze that will fill my whole being with a flame of Holiness.

You know that I speak of Realities. Now that the change is effected, I wonder that it came not about long before it has been so easily done, - nothing necessary on my part but the yielding of the will, and the end is attained.

Your letter, as you may imagine, gave me the greatest pleasure since I have found by experience those things of which you speak to be truths, just as much as are the Mathematical truths with which I ^{am} engaged.

I am confident, my dear father, that you are not far from the light.

Your long experience must have told you that "there is no other Name under Heaven by which men may be saved."

than that of Christ, Why, then,
not accept the salvation freely
proffered by Heim, As you say,
it is the Will alone which hinders.

I hope to see you soon when I
will talk of these things now become
of so much importance to me.

I pray for you continually and
hope you will for me that I may
hold fast to the faith I profess.

I know that God answers prayer.

I intend to join the Congregational-
ist Church here when I shall have
advanced far enough. I wish you
could enjoy the blessed privileges I
enjoy, of prayer meetings, and heart-
ening sermons, and the instruction of the
Bible Class, two of which I belong to, both
taught by intellectual men, one of ~~them~~
being our Professor Stirling, at whose feet
it is a pleasure to sit, and learn wisdom.

There is a great work going on in, I think
all the Churches of this town, but especially
in ours. We have meetings every night &
I attend all, still keeping up in my studies
by good divisions of time. I write short.
Though I have so much to speak of but will
see you soon. Yours for the truth, J. D. C.

Be sure a half that as it is the only kind that happened to be available, and finally for the reason that I do not like to marry, though by writing them when they can be so much better furnished by school than any in your all.

Madison May 18th 1866.

My dear father, [James Christie]

I have read in succession, since I last wrote, yours of the 12th and 15th, the latter with Sandy's from near St. Paul, and would have answered sooner were my time not so completely taken up by my studies, and the new duties, to a sense of which I have so recently awakened. I was in hopes of going home today, but as no notice has yet come of Sandy's arrival, I will have to wait till next Friday, as I do not want to make two journeys home before the close of term.

As it is, if the boys could drive the team here in one day, I would much prefer that way of going home, for it would save me about six dollars, which is quite an object.

If they should start on Thursday morning early, they could drive in without any trouble that day - from Watertown to Sun Prairie, and from thence here - and we could drive back on Friday. No expense but the keep of the team over night, as they could stay with me. If this plan will not give you too much trouble I hope you will think of it; to my mind it is quite feasible.

From Sandy's last letter I see that he is, very likely, at home by this time or will be on Tuesday, at furthest. He may be trusted, I think, to go through anything that any one else can, after this last of ~~the~~ his adventures, but I hope he will not only feel that he has seen enough of such life, but that he will not fail to thank a gracious God from the bottom of his heart for the preservation of life, and the right

of home once more. One who has gone through what he has in his short life should surely be grateful to that Power which has guided him through all.

I see you are solicitous in regard to my health, and afraid that the new life I have begun will bring too much excitement. As to the first, I would say that my health has never been better, take it all through, than it is now; I take plenty of vigorous exercise, rise at five, and bed at ten, never studying when I don't feel like it, and live on good food. I can keep in better health and develop my muscles better here than when I was on the farm, for I take more beneficial exercise with the Dumb Bells, the boxing gloves, the swinging rope and the Cricket club than I could in the drudgery labor of the farm. As to religious excitement, I have not been affected by it in the least, - there was none in my conversion nor is there any affecting me at any time. I have even raptures, nothing but calm peace and joy, and the most cheering hope, and the pleasure of feeling the Spiritual within me expand and grow under the influence of what I know to be the Spirit of God.

I still attend our prayer meetings every night in the week except two, because of the happiness they give me, and because it is my duty to help with all I can do - the Cause to which I owe so much, but we have no excitement in them, nothing that will damage the good work by tendency to produce reaction. That is what I like in the Congregationalist Church, that it works out by exciting an unnatural surface sensation, violent while it lasts, and in many cases going down as rapidly as it rose, but appeals to men's reason, and higher natures, instead of to their emotions, and aims at effecting a radical, because gradual change in all the dispositions of a man's being. It is emphatically, an intellectual Church. If you could hear our pastor you would think he was reading one of Henry Ward Beecher's, but deemont.

[May 19, 1866]

Roll tax in Road District No. 2. 1866.

Names.	No. of days assessed to each.
Wm L. Stevens	2 days labor.
L. Ayer	2 " "
J Martin Stratton	2 " "
Albert Stratton	2 " "
H. C. Eberhart	2 " "

Dated at Rapids May 19th 1866.

R. K. Paine

Town Clerk

Per order Supervisors.

Chicago May 27. 1866

Dear friend Christie:

You cannot
imagine how surprised
as well as delighted I was
in receiving a reply to my
note. I hardly expected to
hear from an Elyrian.

The "Marden meditation" came free
at some like meeting and
old friends to hear from
you. It recalled visions of the
past in my mind's eye.
I see Christie my "vigors"
at the long table in the
old College as I think of
these things I cannot help
saying

"At time two back in your
flight" - How is it with
each of us now could we
know the hearts history of
each of that very group
of girls - methinks it would
present many pictures in
life - But a trace to this
moralizing - you wished to
know something of myself -
I had rather see you ^{and}
tell you - than write it -
soon after I returned
home from College - I
joined my husband at
Leavenworth He remained
there six months then came
to C where I've been living
ever since with my sister -

my husband is at present
in Washington - mustered
out attending to some busi-
ness I hope however to see
him soon I am tired of
this way of living & long to
get settled - sometimes I
think "I can not how far
in the woods it may be"
I have many things to be
thankful for have been highly
favored in having a pleasant
home among those who
have endeavored to make
my last pleasant as possible
while so many have felt the
blighting influence of the
war - I am thankful ^{and}
get not contented - one of

"Mother Eve's" descendants gleaning
for something else - have
only an empty bubble - I remember
well the "bubbles" you must
could do alas! I fear they are
as far from completion
although I still indulge in
"vaunting ambition" thus is hope
itself. Arab falls on Pothee side.
I have almost learned to
trust your future however pleasant
I've actually seen "Chub Gulie"
in Q. three times, as yet more
lost me opportunity to speak
with him - although I am
very anxious to - and he rode
by with some one, another
time he was winding his way
slowly along (as usual) on the
opposite side of the St. I
could hardly restrain from
rushing out "dick-a-bell" and
hulloing to him - I really

believe I should have done
so. But I knew his dignity
would have received a
shock which might have
proved fatal. Judging from
appearance he is the same
"Paul Julian". I wonder if he
be married. I hardly think
he could pluck up suffi-
cient animation to pose
the question. Alas! poor
"Gervase" how divinely he
used to sing "Ora de
schmaben". - - - - - I
see him now like a
character in "Dorings Sketch
Book" clutching convulsively
at the keys of the Melodion

ugh. The melody of that
"hunts up still" I
must hunt him up. I
see the poor fellow will
still. Bless his believe look,
"A man's a man for a
that" Christian you know
my "punching" for ridiculing
the not outgrown it yet
it has not been more more
since College days.

Addie Humphrey is still
in Missouri But very much
changed since you saw
her. You would be at a
loss to recognize her as the
light hearted girl. We meet
the girls together of you. Her
cane are multiplying her

two children her letters are
like "Angel visits" I wrote
her about three months ago -
yet have rec'd no answer -
Inquire of her in the "Evening
Dept." of Washington. She
was in the Hospital there
over a year has seen more
of the sufferings of this
war than you or I. Once
I would not have believed
so timid a girl could have
gone through what she has.
She has been suffering in every
form the most most "Army
Square Hospital" over a year
without any recompense whatever in
a pecuniary point of view. You
are aware that she is a girl who has
to depend upon her own exertions

longer living - she is an noble
girl - "helping" the "strife" - when
she left the Capital she wrote me
to write to her about her "Bunch"
I would have lost all of this
time was expecting my husband
she would like to hear from you
I feel assured you "Hatch" old
thoughts as much of her - her
much I would like to see her - she
is always thought as a noble & re-
solute - gives her my regards
and my wishes when you see
her - I feel incompetent to
advise as regards coming to
- for the purpose of leaving
Olegraphing - but I wish you
would consider this & remain
here - My Sister expects to leave
the City and want to spend
the summer - I think now of
going with her - if you
conclude to go East and pass
through & if we are still here
you must not forget to pay
me a visit - I will close now
hoping to hear from you soon
Yours truly
Liping

P.S. Please send me your
photograph - I'll return the
compliment - you as I get some

Yours truly, J. A. Christie
and out in the other direction
from the point of origin

Madison, June 2^d/66

My dear father: [James Christie]

I have had to work

pretty hard this week to make up for the
two days lost, not only in having
more to study to catch up with my
classes, but also to get myself in a
frame of mind for studying.

Every break up of regular habits in
that way makes the mind lose the
power of application, without which
no intellectual effort can be successful.

It takes time to get the knack of study-
ing, as well as anything else, and this
is lost by disuse. I am about on my
old footing again now, though, and will
begin the coming week on a par with
the rest of my ^{class} ~~school~~ mates.

Nearly all my studies are ad far now
as we will carry them this term, and

we will devote the rest of our time to a thorough Review in everything we have been over. At the close of term there is to be an examination in all the classes, and promotion from one class to another is made to depend on this examination.

I suppose the boys got back all right on Thursday, and from their accounts you will be able to see how we live here. I want you to come up, with Sandy for Commencement, sure. I can stay with me and you can stop in town one night. The cost will be nothing at all, to the pleasure you will take in the exercises.

On Tuesday night three of our students, with about ten more new converts, were examined preliminary to our admittance into the Church.

One of our Normals - Mrs Birch, was among the number,

Last night the Report of the Pastor and the Deacons relative to the Examination was given to the assembly of members of the Church; and we were admitted by vote to membership. Tomorrow we are to be baptized, and there is to be Communion Service at the same time.

I feel the importance of this step I am taking. It is a consecration of myself to the service of Christ in this world, and I hope, forever! I am more than ever determined to devote my life to His Cause in whatever field of labor I may be called to.

There is no calling to be compared to that wherein we labor for the Cause of God, and for the best interests of Immortal Souls, and what poor effort I can give will be given cheerfully in that direction.

I am ~~anxious~~ ^{anxious} to see by your next letter

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What your State of feeling is
still on these important matters,
I hope you have been blessed in
instituting Prayer in the family,
and that you will keep it up in
spite of everything, convinced of
its benefits, and of your duty in
that regard. I pray daily
for our dear Sandy, that he may
lose no time in choosing the better
part of Existence from henceforth, as
his own, and that he may con-
secrate the Powers God has given
him to His Service throughout all
time. If we could only realize as we
should, that this is a duty paramount
to all else, there would be no hesitation
in doing that which is Right.

Read carefully the 7th & 8th
Chapters of Romans. Every verse is full
of meaning. Oh, that the whole world
could see these things as Paul does,
for every word is Eternal Truth,
which we must accept or be forever
lost. Whether we understand them or
not, these are Truths, by which if we are
wise we will be governed. And what a
freedom there is in their acceptance.
Outside of Christ's own teaching, there is nothing in the Bible
more perfect in every way than these two chapters.
Every verse is an inexhaustible mine of
your lovingly, One & Christ's

We shall have some
delightfully talks
very often to think
of the comfort of
standing alone high
as long as long to face
of your prospects
and to be of some
help, in some way.
I think I can
even if it had to
be very becoming
an honest good
wife to a man
whom I should
not have
my innermost heart
to the promise
of a better life.

is sending me away "This little
heart". This is the dearest little bit of
good forgetfulness you ever saw.
I have the chief care of her some
friends has not been very strong, and
since we have the nicest dinner
together. They are to name her
Clara after James's favorite
which is a very pretty name such
a pleasant associated name.

Better St. R.

Clara in Spanish is clear, strong
and I hope she will be above and
fair and bright. What delightful
news about our dear Annie's marriage
how may the "everlasting consolation
and good hope through grace" remain.

with her, and the comfort of Christ
and the power of his salvation.

You call me inconsistent in not
remaining here, and perhaps I am
sometimes I will explain more
completely, and give only a few names
now, which are not the chief ones,
perhaps though they seem quite strong.
In the first place there are two
poor people here trying
to earn an honest living, and in
whatever position I am it seems I
shall be keeping someone else out.

There are so many who must remain
here, that it seems wrong for anyone
whose duty ~~seems~~ lies elsewhere, to persist
in keeping themselves where they should
not be. Boston is like old Jerusalem
to me, I shall doubtless like
to come down here again, before
leaving the world entirely. Perhaps
in ten years from now, if Mr.
Shaw remains in Phillips Church

and good Miss Thayer keeps on
as her missionary, I intend to end
for, &c., &c., and I have nothing
else to do, but you will hope with
me that at that time, there
will be other duties to keep me
at home. It is true, I shall be
sensible of the person you speak
of, if nothing better comes to me
but I trust something better will
come to me. I have heard the preaching
of the twenty third psalm since
coming here, "Reassureth my soul"
"for his name sake;" Surely goodness
and mercy shall follow me all the
days of my life, and I shall dwell
in the house of the Lord
forever. Sometimes the thought
comes over me, Could I go back
to live in Gypsman, in the same
way, but I see that is impossible
forever. Things must be much
changed since Wall joined the

church however, and the Sabbath might
live Christian Communion with it.
What a joy to be able to go to church
and Sabbath school. How full
of solid comfort to us all the knowledge
of Ann's conversion! because we
know that is "seed sown in a good
and honest heart"! Did you hope
for it or did it come almost
unhoped for, to relieve our want
of faith, as Mills conversion came
to me, I wrote to him speaking
the truth in loving - but thought
to myself. It will only be when
some real trial comes, that ~~will~~
he will go to the Saviour for
refuge - not perhaps ^{not} tell his is
fifty years of age or so - and
now just ^{see} the goodness of God to
us - and once more we are strengthened
and go on praying - praying in holy
and perfect faith for those who are
yet without. All will be brought in.
I shall try to leave here about the
first of July and shall come to
you first (and some of you will
be going home, I should not like
to let them know I was coming.

as it will not be many months I shall remain with them, if you or

Tom ^{only} interest yourselves in settling my affairs, as Luther did the nuns - I suppose Tom thinks still - that my mission is to remain there; I wish he only knew how sad my life must be there, so hopeless, but that it will be as it was before, I know now that I am a christian, and that changes the face of things and counts. You are right about sewing work, I often think of our Lord's mother going about in her ~~stet~~ humble daily household work, ^{even} washing, baking, sweeping and making all things right and good and homelike and comfortable and not despising her duties but obedient and sweet and trustworthy and amiable and peaceful, looking forward in faith and patient hope

I long to see you all again
Do you know you are good and
true, you Christians, I have only
found one or two here whom I
have thought of as being equal
in ⁱⁿ certain longings for the right and
true, and at least to one of you
~~of whom I have thought of as being equal~~

take a very decided character in
that direction, bless him. My wife
sends love, and says to tell you
the baby is just the prettiest little
baby in the world, about coming
What I have thought of it a good
while but could not think of speaking
about it until I saw someone over
her trouble, now it is all right
with her, I feel free to find my
own rest, for I do hope for rest
and peace in an honest endeavor
to do right. Please write sometime
little note right away giving
me directions where to find you

and only this day (Sat) to do it in
to write for Chapel on Sunday
evening. I have an essay

Madison, June 8th 1846

My Dear father, [James Chester]
I got your
letter day before yesterday, - we
are very busy now in preparing
for Examination at close of term.
Reviewing every Study, - or I would
have answered sooner, as I felt
prompted to do.

I am sorry for some things
you speak of. - I think you
are not estimating aright either
the benefits which you know
would follow from the establish-
ment of regular family Prayer,
or your duty in this regard.

If we acknowledge the
gracious and loving Goodness
of God in giving us every
blessing we enjoy, nothing

should prevent us from giving him that homage due from the receivers of such great gifts to Him—the great and loving Father of us all, on whom we are so entirely dependent, not only for the marked and notable Blessings that give joy to our lips, but also for the host of the innumerable surroundings that make up the sum of our Existence.

We hold all from Him, and shall anything prevent the public acknowledgment of our gratitude? In saying anything, I do not specify. You will know what are the reasons which prevent your taking this stand, and it is for you to decide whether they are of sufficient importance to weigh against your

Duty. I am confident that if you weigh them well, you will see how utterly patriotic and forless they are, when compared with the Evil Interests that call you in the right direction. I pray you, my dear father, to be courageous in this matter; throw behind you those fears and hesitations that would drag you back. Charge right in the teeth of every difficulty, and God will give you the Victory.

And as to your not being mustered in, as you say, I would ask, whose fault is it? The Officer is ready all the times to receive you, you know the way to him, all that is necessary is to take the oath.

of Service, and you are at once enrolled in the ranks of the Regular army, to fight Sin all the time, instead of in the desultory Guerrilla style we all do when left to our own unskilled guidance,

Assisted by the great Captain of our Salvation, at every step we conquer.

As well might Sherman's army have attempted Atlanta by individual undirected effort, as we to triumph over the force of the Devil in our own natures, entrenched as they are in the strongholds of habitual Sin, without the direct guidance and all powerful help of God.

I thank Him that He has permitted me to enlist in His Service. The Campaign which is to end in Eternal Victory or Defeat is opened. My tent is struck and knapsack packed.

In this Life and Death struggle
before me I see long and weary
marches, and fierce conflicts
with the determined foe; there
are mountains to climb, fighting
at every step, rivers to ford,
the banks of which are armed with
Enemies, cold, and hunger,
and hardship to endure;
all these things I see, but I
see also, that with every days
advance, sometimes skirmish-
ing, often fighting pitched battles,
I come nearer to my Atlanta.

I see that with every victory there
come Reinforcements and Supplies,
and I look forward confidently to
the time, when, the conflict over
and the victory won, my great
Commander shall call me to His

welcome Rest. Further, I want
you, and all the ones nearest
my heart, to go with me in this
glorious work. I feel so strongly
the momentous importance of the
decision every one must make
in this matter, affecting as it
must their eternal interests, that it
seems as if all who look at it in
the right way must speedily make
up their minds to do that which is
right, and expedient.

And now, father, if there is
anything in the way of your
coming to Christ, throw it from
you! Abandon every thing for His
sake, be it your preconceived
theories on these matters, or any-
thing else. Christ will be more
to you than they are, or ever can

be, as you know. In Him lies
all true appreciation of Truth.

And as to this way to come to
Him, it is plain. We must
come, contrite and penitent for
Sin, and, ^{ask} God, for Christ's sake
to forgive us, and receive us once
more into communion with Him.

Then, we must renew this work
every hour of our lives, if we would
retain the blessings of Christ
abiding in us.

To be strong
we must go to Him continually
for strength. And when we
do this confess to Him our sin
and weakness, and ask to receive
the blessings of marriage to God,
with which there is no joy to com-
pare. He will grant it to us,
To whomsoever asketh it shall be

given and to him that knock-
eth it shall be opened."

Trust in these promises, my
dear father, and take the yoke
and burden of Christ upon you,

What a different family we
would be if all of us were striving to
do our duty to God as we should.

How this would increase our love
and tenderness toward each
other, and how Harmony would
take the place of Discord.

I am glad that Vacation is
so close at hand, for I want
to be at home. You said nothing
in your letter of how the Boys
got home, but I suppose they came
in all right. I hope Sandy is no
recruiting, and that you and
him will not fail to come up
at Commencement. My love to
all the household.

Your loving Son Thos. D. Christy

Madison, June 23rd

Dear father, [James Christie]

Yours with the enclosure recd. I am obliged for the promptness of your response to my request. The Books have all come that I sent for.

We have been undergoing Examination during the past three days on all the different Studies pursued during term, and everything with me has gone satisfactorily. Particulars when I come down.

Let I start so as to get here on Tuesday evening.

One of my Class mates will go with us to Watertown,

Your letter gave me
great pleasure, at indeed,
all of yours do, whether I
mention it or not.

As I send off this
morn'g to notify you of
the safe arrival of the
X I won't trouble you
with a long letter.

Hoping soon to see you
I remain

Yours Affectionately

Thos. D. Christie

Madison July 1st
[ca 1866?]

My Dear Sandy. [Cyrus Wain]

Yours with redolence
reached this morning. Many
thanks to father, although I
have found that I shall not need
it so much as I had thought,
since I had \$4.00 on my arrival,
and expenses promise to be very
light, as you will see when
I tell you how everything has
favored me. My success has
exceeded my most sanguine
expectations. Came up on
Thursday afternoon making
the acquaintance of Rev Mr.
Porter, of whom you have heard,
and his wife, who did so much
for the soldiers, on my way
up. Had a pleasant chat with
them; they are now at P. Du. C.

Came up to town that afternoon,
leaving trunk in depot.

Called at Prof. Sterling's house,
but he had just gone away to
be gone a week. Went on up
to the University & there fell
in with Stein of whom you
have heard Aldrich speak.

I had not seen him for a
year. He rooms in the build-
ing during the vacation. So dock
Mr. Fiele, whom I have not
yet seen, and who is a just
work. Well, I staid with S
that night, and next morning
I heard that Glor, of our
Middle Class in D. had come
to me & hired a room for the
purpose of pushing forward
his studies & entering the
main class of the University.

After a long search I found
him, & he was overjoyed to
have me as a companion.
So I am settled in a room
in the heart of town, at
25 cts per week of Rent.
G. has the furniture & we are
boarding ourselves - that is
we take one warm meal per
day at an Eating House, 25
Cents worth, & the other meals
we ~~cook~~ get up ourselves.
My expenses will not run
over two Dollars per week.
Now as to receipts. I didn't
fairly begin work till this
morning, when I sallied out
with Carpet sack in hand
for my work. I write this at
12.10 by the town clock just
opposite my window, and have
to report a forenoon's work in

these terms, No. of miles travelled
about 6. No. of words employed in
setting forth the currents of my
Book, about a small Dictionary
full. Dutton hole attitudes struck
4. Old jokes told, to make folks
good humored - 14 (some of them
6 times each.) Great appetites
for dinner, occasioned by peripat-
hizations, - an unknown quantity
which may be represented by
 x^2 . Thermometer of Animal
Spirits standing at boiling (over)
point. And to crown all, my
number of subscribers, seven,
which at 125 profit each is not
bad for a forenoon's work.

I shall stay here during
nearly the whole vacation,
& am enjoying myself amazingly.
Will write to father soon, but
am very busy as you will
guess, - all for the common
interest. No more from the
Veteran Cavalier Thos. D. Christie

Chymaw, Wis - Aug 3^d 1866

Mr L. N. Myers

Fairfield Ills -

Dear Sir,

I sent the
amount I was owing you
to Fairfield by Express some
time ago, but got no answer
to the letter notifying you
of its transmission.

Please drop me a line
so that I may know if it
is all right, as I still hold
the Express Receipt.

With many thanks &
I remain

Yours truly

A. S. Christie

My address is for the
present,

Chymay,

Dodge ter

Wis—

Saratoga Winona County
Maine
[James Christie] August 6th 1866

Dear Father. I am married and
well matured. both at your long silence.
Why is it you have not written to me before
this what have I done. That you do not to
us, we are both well and likely to continue
so, we are having a very wet day, and so
that is the reason I am writing to you.

James Arnett made us a visit yesterday
and him and I were on the last of terms,
he is hired to William Houdry, for forty dollars
per month two months, and lives about
10 miles from us. As I told Sandy, I am
near leaving River, an account of a note
he was not willing to turn over to me.

Seeing we had worked enough to pay it
he is a hard customer, but I think
we will manage to put our time in
with him. Now I want you to send me
by the first of October \$50, so I may be
able to meet a note I gave to the man
that done the breaking for me. There is

At 4 to, done and ~~100~~ paid. indeed I would
^{not} care if you sent it now, for I am much in need
of a pair of boots, and I am determined not
to ask Fowler. for another cent until the war
line is out. I have also another request to
make and that is, you save me at least one
peck of Black Cherry stones, and a half bushel
of ~~1~~ of Plum stones, so that I may plant me
a hedge and a grove.

I want to know your opinion
about the following. There is a place I can
work on shares. next year, there is twenty five
acres of it under the plow. sixteen of that would
have to be put in wheat. the other nine
in hot crops. have two cows for three years
returning cows with the three year old for the
use of them, leaving all the butter and
milk, and two calves from each cow, for your
happ, we will also have a house, and fire wood,
while we stay on the place, besides a job
of cutting and hauling fifty cords of wood, to
St. Charles, now the greatest bar to all this
as far as I can see at present is that it is about

four miles from my place but close to
my wood lot. Another tells me the
apple trees were loaded with fruit, now all
I say is you must remember the poor.
I do not think either of us will be down next
fall or winter. Mary says she will not go down
for she will be a perfect fright, you may guess
the reason, but I will try to persuade her to
go for I would like to bring up the wagon
myself with a team of some kind for
I will have a great deal of work for a
team. Building and fencing, material are
at remuneration prices. I will need 240,
or 250 rods of fence one thousand feet for my
40 rods, with one thing and another I will need
4000 ft that at \$32. dollars per thousand in St. Charles
make \$128, dollars. George Blair, a settler here,
built some fine his lumber cost him, in
St. Charles \$125. 37. Counting hauling and
building. and posts his fence has cost him
\$1.36 per rod, but I am not discouraged, in
fact, in fact getting a help make head and
will all my picking and passing.

Now write me soon, and let me know
all about your sheep, and crops, and how much
you got for your wheat. Tell me all about every
thing, good by for the present, love to all,

Mary sends her love, to you all,

and believe me ever

Your Affectionate son,

William G Christie

Saratoga Winona County

[James Christie]

Minna

Dear Father

August 26th 1866

Your letter of the 20th ult. containing \$7.00. Came opportunely to hand last night. I would have been under the necessity of writing to you for just that amount, if you had not sent it. We have had a great deal of rainy weather here, and Root River has been up on a very high level, causing great loss of life and property.

I will send the paper containing the full particulars. One week ago yesterday I was up in St Charles because it was a wet day, and got a pair of boots ^{for self}, and a new calico dress for Mary. I Anna met me in the street, and she tells him my errand about the boots. He very kindly lent me fifteen dollars, I not even asking for it, so you see you sending the sum you did will ^{pay} him and I. The yield of straw in this part of the County is ^{great} large, but the wheat is generally of poor quality, being shrunk and blighted, also not, is found in many fields.

where a full crop was expected. Oats are a good crop, but many of those are spoiled by the rainy weather. Potatoes are good, and there is every reason to believe, there will be enough of everything to eat, although the dry weather after corn planting, and cold weather now, does not promise a good crop of that staple, but if the next month will be warmer than this has been so far, there will be a fair yield.

I am sorry to hear of the rains having caused so much damage, to crops in your section: and you must have been troubled, a great deal on Steele's account, by the loss of either of the mares, had either. Tell me all about the farm, and stock, your wool crops and cows, and calves, everything that can interest us.

Mary is well, and is all any man could wish his wife to be. It is beyond doubt she will need some very fine wooden goods about the middle of winter, for a certain purchase.

But I suppose she won't really like me, to preach on her, in this way.

I borrow very little

trouble somehow, by what I want to do.

Although I must admit, I can't see very clearly, how I am going to get, fencing lumber, and building stuff, besides housefurnishings, out of my small capital besides seed, and a yoke of cattle. That is the only reason why I ever gave the taking of the Brown.

Place a consideration, and get you bring in the only objection, Mary ^{did} ~~say~~. Why did you stick at that 'and?' eh? Now write me another letter soon, and let me know, if you are having the Cherry stones, saws, and Plum stones, a peck of pears, and half a bushel of the last named, Mary sends her love to all,

Same from self, and believe me
ever your loving Son and
Daughter

Wm & M. Christie

[Aug. 31, 1866]

Notice

It is hereby given that the board of Supervisors for the Town of Rapidan will meet at the House of Wm. L. Stevens in said Town on Saturday the 15th day of Sept next at 9 o'clock A.M. for the purpose of viewing a proposed route for a road commencing at the Quarter post between Sections 26 & 27 thence running west to the west line of said Township also to hear all objections to the laying out of said road

Dated at Rapidan this
31st day of August A.D., 1866

Lucius Dyer
Chairman